

Inside Today:

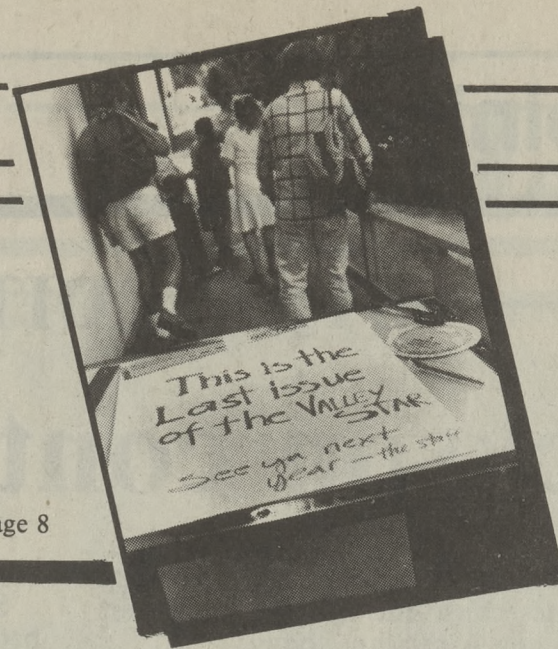
*Sports season
a success*

See page 11

Crime in America:

VICTIMS

See page 8



Thursday

June 2, 1988

Valley Star

Van Nuys, California

Serving Valley College for 39 years

Vol. 39, No. 29

NEWS BRIEFS

Prop. 71 endorsed

The Los Angeles Community College District Board of Trustees recently endorsed two measures on the June ballot and voted to oppose a third.

Proposition 71, the Government Spending Limitation and Accountability Act of 1988, received the Board's endorsement. The measure would allow the state spending limit to grow at the same rate as the California Consumer Price Index (CPI).

Current law calls for the use of the U.S. Consumer Price Index, which has grown at a slower rate than the state's CPI. It would also adjust for population size using school enrollments.

The Board also endorsed Proposition 75, the School Facility Bond measure. If approved, the bond issue would provide \$800 million to construct new schools and reconstruct old ones statewide.

"California school children deserve to attend safe, well-equipped schools and parents and citizens expect students to be educated in well-maintained and equipped schools," the Board motion stated.

The Board opposed Proposition 72, the Paul Gann Spending Limit Improvement and Enforcement Act of 1988. The act, said the Board, "fails to address the long-term problems of the existing state spending limit" and "would take critical funds directly from California schools..."

If passed, Proposition 72 would mean a loss of revenue by education and other state general fund supported programs amounting to \$670 million in 1990-91, \$710 million in 1991-92 and increasing sums annually thereafter, according to the state's Legislative Analyst.

Students' scholarships

As part of an established annual tradition, the History, Humanities, Law and Political Science Department at Valley College honored two students on Monday, May 23, by presenting them with awards for academic excellence.

The recipients are winners of a scholarship competition for which the contestants have to have an overall grade point average of 3.0 or more, and a GPA of 3.5 or better in subjects offered by the HHLPS department.

This year's scholarship recipients were: Mary Lynn Barge, a liberal studies major at Valley, who received the Dr. James Dodson Scholarship, which includes a check for \$200.

Maria LaCamera, a psychology major, was awarded the HHLPS Departmental Scholarship with a check for \$100.

These scholarships are funded by donations from faculty members of the HHLPS Department, and are bestowed as a recognition of high academic achievement as well as an encouragement to students transferring to higher institutions of learning.

Aiming for a bull's eye



GIANNI PIROVANO / Valley Star

Shirley Cooper practices her archery skills during her Tuesday-Thursday class.

Valley's Ivy-covered halls

Stanford motivates student

By CATHERINE GUNN
Staff Writer

While Valley College has no traditional ivy-covered halls, its motivated students, such as sophomore Avi Lonstein, will always seek an academic challenge.

A paper written by Lonstein became the first submission from a community college student ever to finish in the top six in a recent essay contest held by Stanford University.

Lonstein, 19, wrote on the assigned topic *Dumping in International*

Trade - Evil or Opportunity? and received \$500 for coming in sixth place. The first-place winner was a doctoral candidate.

Dr. Milton Friedman, winner of the Nobel Prize in economics, judged the 15 finalists. These 15 essays were culled from an original 500 mailed-in papers submitted by each entrant's economics professor.

Lonstein estimates that more than 4,000 others were written but not picked for the nationwide contest.

The end result of 30 hours of hard work, Lonstein's 1500-word essay enabled him to fly to Stanford in

May. There he met Friedman, a senior research fellow at Stanford's Hoover Institution.

In his paper, Lonstein took a stand unpopular with the average person. He formed his viewpoint after hours of research and decided dumping was an opportunity not an evil.

Dumping occurs when a foreign nation subsidizes its industries and sells goods in another country at a price below the production cost.

"Dumping has become a political issue," said Lonstein. Politicians often crusade for protectionist trade barriers on behalf of the common man, claiming dumping destroys domestic industries and takes jobs away, said Lonstein.

"Most economists agree that dumping will help us more than hurt us," said Lonstein.

Lonstein said he agreed with the beliefs of the Americanism Education League, the organization which sponsored the contest, but an essay's viewpoint does not affect the judges. "The winner dissented [with the view held by most economists]," he said.

A transplant from Johannesburg, South Africa, Lonstein feels that the standard of education in the country he left behind is better.

Lonstein has travelled extensively in Europe and Israel. "I am jaundiced when people in the United States complain about civil rights violations," he said. "Other countries have a much worse situation."

Lonstein works part-time in a public relations firm in Beverly Hills as an assistant controller while he goes to school full-time. He intends to take a year off before continuing his studying businesses at the University of Southern California.



Stanford award winner Avi Lonstein accepts an award from Dr. William Huston, chairman of the Americanism Education League.

Student accuses ASU; backpedaling on proposal

By BILL SCHEIDER
Staff Writer

Eric Dahlin, newly elected commissioner of scholastic affairs, yesterday accused the (ASU) of stepping back from its support of his proposal to publish, for students, a booklet evaluating teacher performance at Valley.

Dahlin and Mindi Weinstein, chairwoman of Committee for Action Now, a student group proposing student evaluations for teachers, claim to have obtained the support and sponsorship of ASU for their project.

ASU President Desert Cowart, on the other hand, said while the student council generally favors the concept and believes the intent of CAN is admirable, their statement that they have obtained the support and backing of the ASU is misleading and violates "the spirit in which the council's support was given."

CAN's project, still in its infancy, entails having students evaluate Valley teachers classroom performance, compiling the results of the evaluations and printing the results in a booklet to be distributed to students.

Students new to the campus or unfamiliar with a particular instructor could then refer to the booklet to see how the teacher

was evaluated by students the previous semester.

The student evaluations are similar to systems already in place in institutions such as CSUN, UCLA and other California colleges and universities. The LACCD also uses student evaluations of teachers but those results are unavailable to students.

Under the CAN proposal student volunteers, with the permission of the classroom teacher, will distribute and collect a brief questionnaire during a pre-arranged class time towards the end of this semester.

The results of the questionnaires will be assembled over the summer break, and the booklets containing the "review of instructors" would be distributed beginning in the Fall '88 semester.

Weinstein stressed the need for teachers' cooperation if the project is to be successful.

"If teachers don't approve, there's nothing we can do," she said. "We'd like their cooperation. We'd like it to be something positive that they'll participate in with their students."

Valley teachers were notified, through letters placed in their mailboxes on Tuesday, of the committee's intention to solicit and print evaluations.

Teacher response to the concept of student evaluations has been

"very positive," said Weinstein.

Pat Blakeslee, chairwoman for the American Federation of Teachers Valley Chapter, while not resistant to the evaluations, questioned the reliability and validity of the method.

She said that, "Student evaluations may not correlate highly as measured against other criteria," such as the number of students who go on to major in a subject or take a further course.

"Student evaluations can't be totally objective," Blakeslee said. "Different instructors appeal to different students. And there's a tendency to evaluate positively when you are getting good grades and vice-versa."

Blakeslee said that evaluations shouldn't be the only guide in choosing an instructor, and teachers' backgrounds should be taken into consideration.

Synopses of teachers' careers are printed in the college catalogue. Some things that are important to students, like whether a teacher is willing to write a letter of recommendation to transfer institutions, are left off the questionnaires, said Blakeslee.

"Evaluations are a little more formal and objective than 'asking around,'" she said.

Pauline Merry, dean of student affairs, believes that CAN's con-

(Please see, EVALUATION, pg. 3)

Final Examination Schedule

Spring semester 1988
Thursday, June 9 - Friday, June 17

Final examinations **MUST** be held on the **DAY** and **TIME** scheduled, and in the regularly assigned classroom.

The date of your final examination is determined by the first day and the first hour your class meets.

Classes which meet only one day per week (modular classes) will have their finals at the first regular class meeting time during the period Thursday, June 9 through Friday, June 17.

Classes of less-than-semester length (4, 5, 6, 8, or 9-week classes) will have their final exam at the last meeting of the class.

All 4 p.m. and evening classes will have final exams as follows:

Monday classes: June 13
Tuesday classes: June 14
Wednesday classes: June 15
Thursday classes: June 9 or 16 (Instructors choice)

All Saturday classes will have final exams on Saturday, June 11, at the regular class time.

CLASSES MEETING ON	7 a.m. & 7:30 M or W or F	7 a.m. & 7:30 TH	8 a.m. & 8:30 M or W or F	8 a.m. & 8:30 Tu or TH	9 a.m. & 9:30 M or W or F	9 a.m. & 9:30 Tu or TH
FINAL ON	Wed. June 15 8-10	Thurs. June 16 8-10	Mon. June 13 8-10	Tues. June 14 8-10	Fri. June 10 8-10	Thurs. June 9 8-10
CLASSES MEETING ON	10 a.m. & 10:30 M or W or F	10 a.m. & 10:30 Tu or TH	11 a.m. & 11:30 M or W or F	11 a.m. & 11:30 Tu or TH	Noon or 12:30 M or W or F	Noon or 12:30 Tu or TH
FINAL ON	Wed. June 15 10:30-12:30	Thurs. June 16 10:30-12:30	Fri. June 10 10:30-12:30	Thurs. June 9 10:30-12:30	Mon. June 13 10:30-12:30	Tues. June 14 10:30-12:30
CLASSES MEETING ON	1 p.m. & 1:30 M or W or F	1 p.m. & 1:30 Tu or TH	2 p.m. & 2:30 M or W or F	2 p.m. & 2:30 Tu or TH	3 p.m. & 3:30 M or W or F	3 p.m. & 3:30 Tu or TH
FINAL ON	Wed. June 15 1-3	Thurs. June 9 1-3	Mon. June 13 1-3	Thurs. June 16 1-3	Fri. June 17 1-3	Tues. June 14 1-3

In case of conflicts or for makeup exams, see instructor

—STAR EDITORIAL—

Jackson continues war

Drug addiction, drug trafficking and drug related crimes constitute one of the biggest problems facing Americans today.

Presidential candidates didn't take the drug issue too seriously, until Democratic presidential candidate Jesse Jackson brought the problem out and into the national limelight.

Because of Jackson, the voting public views the drug issue as the nation's number one problem that needs attention.

LAPD Chief Daryl Gates recently complimented Jackson on his efforts for publically emphasizing the drug issue. Gates felt that Jackson was the first candidate who gave the drug issue in-depth thought for solutions and spoke about the subject with fervor.

As a result of Jackson's efforts, the other presidential candidates have hopped on the bandwagon of openly speaking about the drug problem.

According to the May 30 issue of *Newsweek*, the federal government estimates there are five to six million cocaine users, more than half a million heroin users and at least 18 million pot smokers in the United States. Approximately 1.5 to 2 million

Americans are addicted to heroin or cocaine.

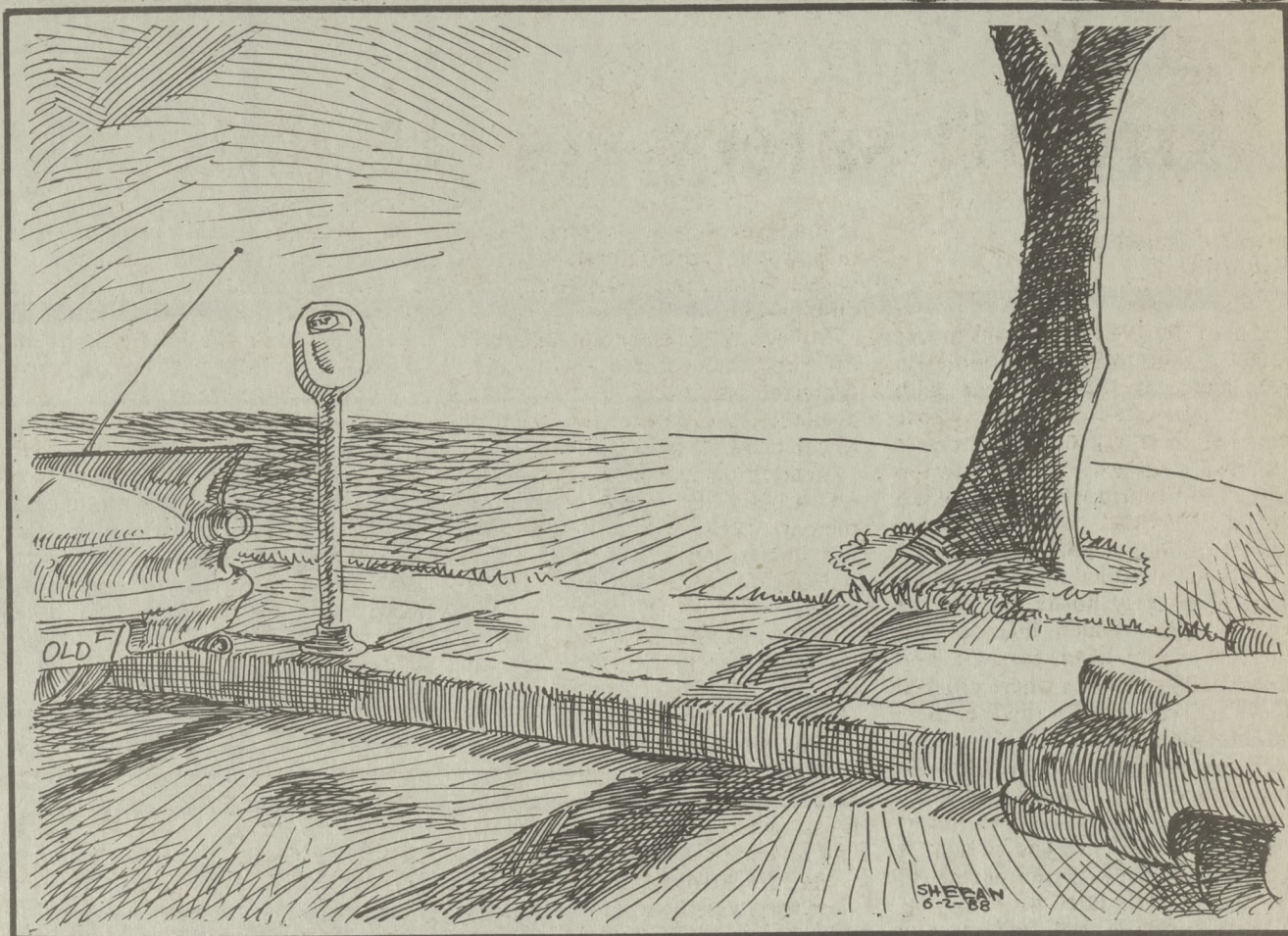
Scholars estimate that Americans spend between \$15 to \$20 billion a year on cocaine alone.

The sale and use of illegal drugs is killing friends and family members everywhere. The police link drug trafficking to the mafia and street gangs which contribute to the growing crime rate in America.

Jackson says, "The drug crisis is the number one threat to our national security. The democracies are teetering all over the world, because of drugs. Our children and cities are being invaded by drugs and our foreign policy is undermined by the drug dealings by friend and foe alike. It is not enough to say NO, it is time to say YES to action."

His words are not empty promises, because he has an anti-drug program that is ready for action.

Jackson had the vision of America's number one problem. His openness about the drug issue caused other presidential candidates to encompass the drug problem in their campaigns. The *Valley Star*, though not endorsing Jackson for president, would like to congratulate him for his efforts. His openness has caused a wave of first steps for other candidates.



New car buyers beware

Car dealer tricks abound

By DAN MCKEE
Staff writer

The old "car dealer trick" is still alive and well. In fact it now has a new twist that might cost me, or you, more than the full price of a new car. The irony of it all, is you might not end up with any car in your possession.

Last summer I stopped into a nearby jeep dealership to have a look at a new wagon I had admired.

Boy were those guys ever cooperative.

They offered me a good price for my trade in, that is, if I drove the new vehicle off the lot that day.

My trade in was a prime '77 Chevy Monte Carlo, which I had spent the previous year restoring at a total cost of more than \$7,500.

Once the salesman recognized I was not trading in a piece of junk and was aware of the fact I had a couple of other cars, he realized I was more than just a browser.

Suddenly, I was meeting with the finance manager and the sales manager who were offering me coffee and exchanging pleasantries.

I was in no hurry to get the new vehicle and offered to bring in an insurance binder on Monday, as had been required on every new car I had purchased in the past.

At this time, I had basic insurance on the two other vehicles already in my possession. I was told by the salesman if I were to purchase a new car that day, my insurance would automatically apply to the new auto. This statement was confirmed by the finance manager.

The credit check was fine and I was approved. They congratulated me on my new car, a \$34,000 Jeep station wagon, including extras.

I was assured because of my excellent credit that their finance company would loan me the \$24,000 difference as long as I put an additional \$2,400 cash in down payment (including my \$7,500 trade-in).

I was beginning to feel some discomfort in my chest. I explained I had been out of Northridge Hospital only a few days before and needed to go home for my medicine.

The salesman kindly offered to take me home while the finance manager was completing the paperwork. I opted to drive myself rather than inconvenience anyone.

When I returned an hour later, sure enough, everything was ready—loan approved, paperwork typed up and the car was detailed and gleaming.

All I had to do was sign a sales agreement in seven different places, one of them agreeing I was responsible to obtain my own insurance. (They noted the name of my insurance company on the document.)

They even allowed me seven days to get my own financing for a better rate through my credit union. Boy, were those guys ever cooperative!

So with curious amusement, I smiled as I drove off the lot in my fine new automobile. All this in one afternoon!

Now, if this is sounding a bit too good, just wait a second. Five days later my fine new car was stolen off the street, zip, gone, nada!

I filed a police report immediately then called the sales manager for advice. He explained again to me and a friend, who was conversing on an extension phone, that "California law requires your current insurance company to cover a new car for thirty days."

Then he calmly said, "Sorry sir, you still owe us \$24,000 on the

finance contract. You will have to pay it immediately or we will have to take it to the courts." Somehow I could tell there no longer was a smile on his face.

They have since filed a fraud action against me to recover the \$24,000 plus costs. I have hired an attorney who is going to charge me \$10,000 to try and save me the \$24,000 I'm being sued for. The suit is waiting trial in the Van Nuys courts.

If I win, I stand to lose the \$10,000 down payment, plus my \$10,000 attorney fee.

If I lose, I pay \$24,000 plus \$10,000 down payment, plus \$10,000 attorney, plus court costs and no car!

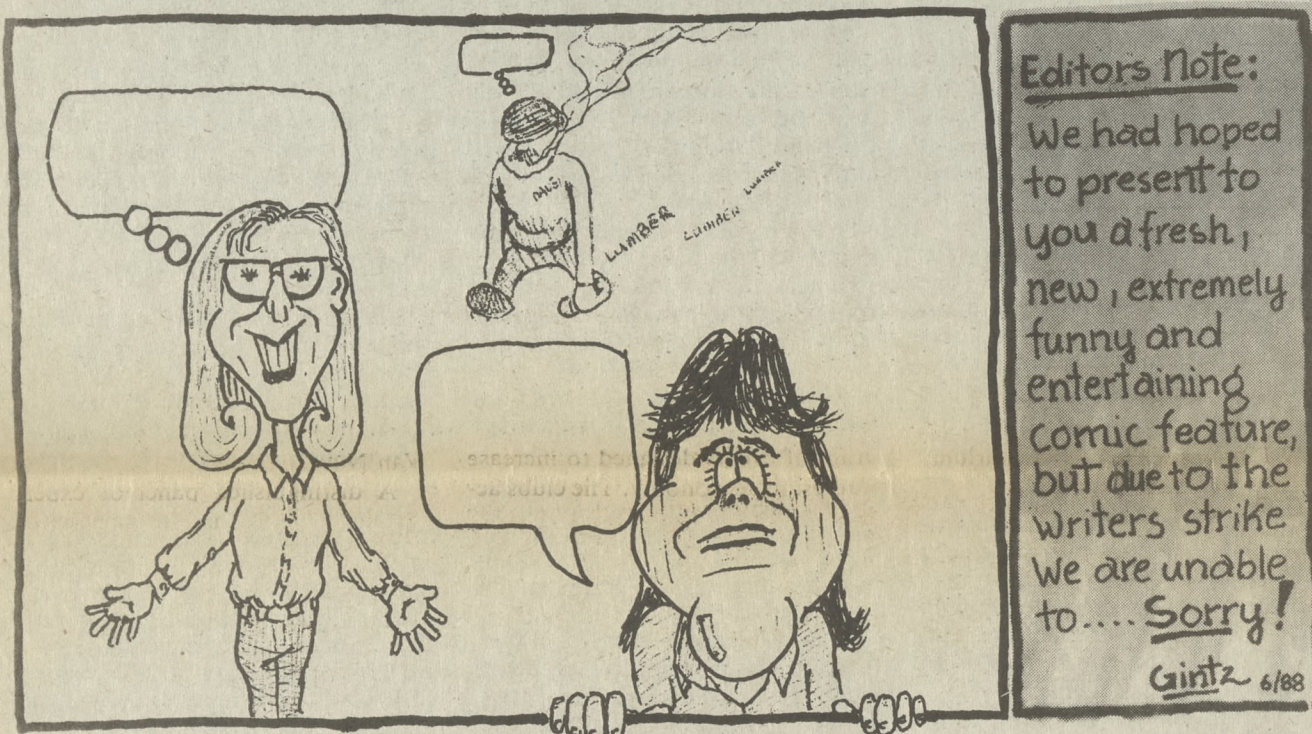
Obviously this problem is mine because I didn't walk into the dealership "suspicious", and with sophisticated knowledge of auto sales insurance or law. I was just acting in good faith.

What do you think, American Motors? Do you condone your dealer misrepresentation? Is this the corporate image you want portrayed to America?

Used car dealers traditionally carry the "wheeling and dealing" stigma we try to avoid. But the squeaky-clean image of American Motors and/or their dealers dissipates quickly when an innocent buyer falls prey to such questionable tactics.

So buyers beware! Make sure you have direct and immediate access to your insurance agent when you are considering a new car (or just browsing!) and certainly don't be taken in by scamming sales techniques designed to get you to drive your new car today.

Boy were those guys ever cooperative!



Ladies save your bras!

By ELIZABETH DAVIS
Staff Writer

Women's position of equality in corporate America is threatened by Japanese businessmen.

Just as life was becoming equal between the genders, a new menace has come on the scene. The buying of American companies by foreign investors.

A weakened dollar and depressed stock prices acted as a catalyst for the buying of America by the United Kingdom, Canada, West Germany, France, the Netherlands and especially, Japan.

Japan, according to the Japan Business Association, now employs over 87,000 people in California alone.

Now, that sounds harmless. A job is a job, pay is pay, right? Not necessarily so. Further examination of the cultural differences between Japan and America shows sinister implications of a dismal future for women workers, especially on the corporate level.

If all you want is a job, there is usually no problem. In fact, some of the Japanese concepts for employees are admirable such as

development of trust, respect and teamwork.

However, if you plan a career to climb the corporate ladder of a Japanese owned company, you should be aware of the attitude towards women at the home office in Tokyo. It is not customary, in Japan, to promote women to top jobs either in government or industry.

Trading companies and financial services are the most straight-line Japanese in corporate culture, resisting American management practices. Note, if you will, seven major California banks are now under Japanese control.

If there is a corporate need for more brain power, chances are excellent that females will be circumvented in favor of Japanese nationals first, Caucasians (males) second and seldom, if at all, women.

If you have lofty goals of decision making power in the corporate boardroom, there are bamboo roadblocks.

Even though Japanese managers are more apt to speak of their pro-

blems to a woman (outside the office) rather than to a man, and she may be considered "trustworthy", she will rarely rise above department head.

To Japanese businessmen there is no line between professional and personal life. Socializing is expected if you wish to advance.

Within the office, it is considered a weakness to the "team" to complain, inappropriate to debate with your Japanese boss and immature to show emotion.

Yes, you could file grievances, but any court action takes months, at best, and more frequently, years to settle. Some cases are now being settled after ten years of litigation.

Perhaps that's one reason why there has been a phenomenal rise in women entrepreneurs in this country. Form your own company and play by your own rules.

Save your bras, ladies, the only burning Japanese businessmen relate to is incense.

Get your pay in yen, the exchange rate will provide your raise.

—Letter to the Star—

Student Information

Editor,

A group of students has organized into a committee to produce a handbook that will give students insight into which classes they might want to enroll in. This handbook will be a compilation of a student survey and will be available during class registration next fall.

The Committee for Action Now (CAN) has obtained the approval and financial support of the ASU

and is prepared to begin the next phase of this project. This step involves the completion of a questionnaire by students in their classrooms.

The instructors will have an opportunity to entice potential students to enroll in their courses, and students will have a means to make an informed choice as to which class best suits their needs.

Any student who wishes to help and has not yet attended a meeting of CAN or signed up in the ASU of-

fice can look for a posting of the next scheduled meeting of CAN.

Because this survey is entirely voluntary, any instructor who chooses not to participate will not be included in the booklet.

We are asking the instructors to use valuable class time for this project, but the five minutes lost will be justified by the benefit this booklet will bring to students and teachers alike.

Eric T. Dahlin
Committee for Action Now

Valley Star

Los Angeles Valley College

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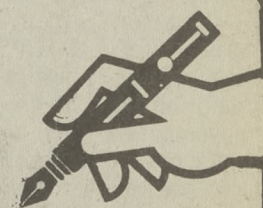
LETTERS

The Valley Star is happy to receive and, if possible, publish letters from its readers.

Star reserves the right to condense all letters for space considerations. Submitted letters should be limited to 350 words. Letters are subject to editing if they are obscene, libelous, or

make racial, ethnic, or religious denigrations.

Letters should be signed and, if applicable, should include student's major and ID number. Letters may be presented in the Valley Star office, Business Journalism 114, by Monday for the following Thursday.



Station 90

Aircraft safety via 'Helitac'

By KATHI JOHNSON
Staff Writer

Out of the 104 fire stations in Los Angeles, Station 90, on Woodley in Van Nuys, is the only one with Helitac personnel, firemen whose expertise in emergency situations is "aircraft safety." This station houses 30 firemen who are qualified for the Helitac crew. They are neither pilots nor paramedics.

Helitac is called for all brush fires, emergency hoists and certain trauma cases, which include falls over 15 feet, head injuries and automobile accidents where crushed doors or seats render the victim in extreme pain.

If the accident victim can't be transported to a trauma center by ambulance within 20 minutes, Helitac is called in. The patient is then transported, by ambulance, to the nearest designated lift site.

Large parking lots, community parks, or any space that is 100 feet

in diameter with no telephone wires or power lines are potential lift sites, where patients are transferred from ambulance to helicopter.

Valley College is a commonly used lift site. The football field is the preferred site, but if that is not available, the parking lot adjacent to the baseball field is used.

In addition to Helitac, a local battalion chief and a task force of 10 men are called to the lift site. Their job is to clear the lot and insure public safety while the lift is in progress.

The air-ambulance will arrive at the site three to five minutes after the call. The crew will include two Helitac personnel, two pilots and two paramedics.

Hoist operations require three Helitac men: one to operate the hoist, one to go down with the hoist, and one to direct the lift.

Station 90 provides Helitac services for all of the Los Angeles area.

The men at Fire Station 90 boast that theirs is the most requested fire

station in the city. Consequently, it is one of the hardest to get into.

Firemen hoping to become part of the Helitac team must go through two years of on-the-job training that includes rigorous physical activity and comprehensive study.

Steve Hassien is the newest "boot," or trainee, on the team. He has been with the department two years and is anxiously awaiting his certification.

Mike Dodd, who has been with the fire department 15 years, said that Helitac men put in a 56-hour work week. The week is divided into three 24 hour shifts, and they work the first, third and fifth days of a nine day cycle.

With 20 to 25 emergency calls a week, there is no time for loafing. "Fifty to sixty percent of the calls are brush fires," said pilot Jerry Cook.

Explaining why he chose to join Helitac, a 23-year employee nicknamed "Mudd" jokingly said "Danger is my business."



Some of the men from the L.A. City Fire Dept. include: paramedic; 'Mudd', Helitac; Jerry Cook, pilot; and Cooper, paramedic.
(clockwise - far left to right) Mike Dodd, Helitac; Bogard,

Evaluation handbook...

(Continued from pg. 1)

tention that teacher response has been favorable is misleading.

She has received a phone call from at least one instructor concerned about the purpose of the evaluations and the intent of the organizing committee, she said.

Two attempts to reach that instructor for comment were unsuccessful.

Dahlin concedes there will be some negative response to the proposal, but he emphasized that the committee will attempt to contact each teacher personally to explain the process and allay any fears they might have.

"We're not trying to set up an

adversarial relationship," he said. "It's team work. The more information we can get out to the students, the more beneficial to everyone."

CAN claims on their letter to teachers and on their evaluation questionnaire to have the support and backing of the ASU for their project and that implied endorsement and sponsorship of student government was disputed yesterday by Cowart and Merry.

Merry said: "They're just an independent group of students who have gotten together. They have no faculty advisor, no faculty sponsor

and no faculty support. Indirectly, ASU might be considered a sponsor, but they aren't really; they just gave them some money."

The committee received \$82 from ASU earlier this month to reproduce a questionnaire and the letters to the teachers but received no further commitment for funds, according to Kevin Stewart, ASU treasurer.

Cowart said the student council liked the idea of the student evaluations and agreed to fund the initial printing. However, the committee was given no further endorsement or commitment for support, she said.

News Notes

"Black Holes" will be presented on Friday, June 3 at 8pm and again at 9:15pm at Valley's Planetarium.

Tickets will be available at the door: adults \$3.50, kids 8 to 16 \$2.00, no children under 8 will be admitted.

The show will also detail the stars and planets currently visible in the June sky. A stargazer for the month of June is included in the price of admission.

This show is part of the Astronomy Club's continuing program of events designed to increase interest in Astronomy. The club activities will continue through the summer. For information call 781-1200 ext. 335.

...

On Friday, June 24, 1988, the Southern California Orthopedic Institute will present a symposium on

women's issues in sportsmedicine, at Valley Presbyterian Hospital in Van Nuys.

A distinguished panel of expert speakers will discuss the concerns of female athletes. Anyone involved or interested in the conditioning, management and development of female athletes are encouraged to attend.

For information, call Vickie Peters at (818) 901-0355. Fees are \$25, \$10 for students with I.D.

These are the winning entries from the "High School Journalism Day" writing competition, held during the Spring Arts Festival at Valley College two weeks ago. The topic of the entries was a press conference held on campus with D.A. Ira Reiner. Both of these entries placed 1st in their categories and both are from Taft high school. The winners will also be invited to attend the annual journalism banquet.

Editorial
by Donny Kirsch

The movie *Colors* has brought about a great deal of controversy. Some say the movie is anti-gangs while others claim it glorifies gangs. Yet, the movie does undoubtedly give an accurate taste of realistic scenarios between "gangbangers" and police officers.

In *Colors*, there were several scenes where officers caught alleged gang members in the possession of narcotics.

Rather than take these delinquents in to the department to receive any sort of consequences, the officers disposed of the drugs and gave the "gangbangers" a warning.

According to Ira Reiner, district attorney, in a recent press conference at LA Valley College, this is an actual occurrence.

He continued that gangbangers (under the age of 18) often have such incidents about two or three times before they even see a police station.

Further, he stated that at the first two or three visits to a police station, a gang member merely receives a slap on the wrist and is sent home to Mommy.

Another problem with the current system that Reiner shared was that the younger offenders, who have committed small

crimes, are given little attention by the judicial system; hence, advocating the delinquent's crime and almost assuring a return visit in the future.

Reiner claims that this system must be changed. He proposed no specific alterations but merely that some sort of consequence must be created to keep these minors straight, for this is often where many of the problems start.

According to Reiner, there are several reasons why minors are often subject to such lifestyles. One such reason is they are surrounded by other gangbangers (often older siblings that are respected) and feel they need a gang to help them survive.

Another reason is that parents silently allow it, pretending they don't know what their children are doing.

An example cited by Reiner was that an adolescent may have five stereos in his room, doesn't even own a car, and the parents are not even the least bit suspicious.

To make a long story short, in order to control our drug/gang violence problem, our judicial system must be severely altered and people must become more educated, not only minors about the dangers of "gangbanging," but the parents, as well, in what sort of activities their children are participating.

News story
by Paula Mauro

The juvenile justice system must alter its focus in order to effectively deal with gang violence, emphasized District Attorney Ira Reiner at last Thursday's press conference at Los Angeles Valley College.

According to Reiner, L.A. authorities, including the D.A.'s office, the courts, and public defenders can begin to alleviate gang activities by cracking down on the youngest offenders who are committing the most minor crimes.

By demonstrating to nine and ten year olds the consequences of their crimes, minors can break out of the "sociopathic" pattern before they become involved in more serious offenses.

"It is essential that we use all the child resources we have to turn this type of kid around," Reiner expressed.

Reiner believes that kids attitudes can begin to take on a positive shape as early as grammar school, and can be reinforced at home.

By high school, it becomes unlikely that even 20 percent will change their thinking. Just keeping the kids in school, according to the district attorney, plays a major role in the side of law they choose to stand on.

"If the kids are out of school, they are being pushed in an inevitable direction," he said.

Reiner expressed that it will take the help of the entire community to change the culture so that gangs will cease to be a danger to society.

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ITALIAN SUBS



Playwright Mike Johnson (right) discusses a scene from *The Pearl Diver* with James Bartholet (Mark) and April Audia (Lauren).

Writer creates

Nickels prompt inspiration

By NANCY WEDEEN
Assoc. Entertainment Editor

As 30-year-old Mike Johnston struggles to live his dream, every day is a test of his convictions. "It's important to do what you want to do," he said. "A writer writes."

His intense crystal-blue eyes are almost intimidating as he leans forward to make a point. "I write all the time, anywhere, in the library, in the tub, in restaurants, he said. "I scribble on bits of paper."

Johnston works as a catering company employee, not so much to earn a living but to learn about people because he is, in reality, a playwright. He is always gathering material and writes constantly.

"No one writes a play," he emphasized, "It's re-writing. I rewrite everything in longhand and then I borrow a typewriter."

The first satisfaction comes when the words are on the paper and it looks like a manuscript. "When I see it in print," he said, "the words take on a whole new meaning."

Johnston will direct his most recent play, *The Pearl Diver*, at the LAVC Lab Theatre on June 7 and 8.

In *The Pearl Diver*, a one-act seven-scene play, there are 11 characters. The main character, a young man from a well-to-do family, is a "pearl diver", or dishwasher, who is an aspiring artist. An, as yet, unsold painter.

"Plays are extensions of yourself," he said. "I think it must be like a woman going through a pregnancy, hoping everything will be all right and hoping that everyone will accept it."

Johnston enjoys the process of play writing. "It's a love-hate thing," he said, "anxiety is part of the fun."

Finally, when the play is in production on stage, with scenery and lights, he said, "Then I think it's OK and I feel satisfied."

The audience reaction, however, is the real reward. "The play lets me say something about myself, and I hope it prompts people to express themselves," he said. "People should be in contact with how they feel."

Johnston is inspired by other playwrights and directors. He worked with David Mamet as a production assistant on a feature film in Chicago last fall. "It was like a kid meeting Mickey Mantle," he said. "I learned a lot from him."

Johnston smiled as he told about standing in a market check-out line recently "with two pockets full of nickels" (waiting for payday) to buy a bag of potato chips.

"I was thumbing through *People* magazine, he said, "and I saw an article about Mamet working with Madonna on Broadway. And I remembered his telling me that he used to work menial jobs, like me. I smiled as I walked out of the store."

As a student at LAVC, Johnston also wrote three other plays which were presented in the Lab Theatre. He is not concerned with earning units, he said, but with "learning the craft."

Johnston seems to have a compulsion to say things "in a few words," to encapsulate ideas, to hold them and to make them clear. He likes to make people think. "And," he said, "acceptance is the bottom line."

Literary anthology pushes right buttons

By CATHERINE GUNN
Staff Writer

Manuscript 33, Valley College's student literary anthology, contains more short stories intended to push the right buttons rather than examples of carefully crafted prose.

The poems, however, can be re-read and savored. Perhaps this is why the poetry and essays are in separate sections.

In the story section, revenge and *Twilight Zone* lovers will be satisfied when justice is served, as if a supernatural hand were at work.

Four of the eleven stories end in a similar fashion: Characters who have led ignominious lives meet death swiftly. The authors could have swapped notes.

Prize-winning *Memoirs*, by Bob Weiss, a myth-debunking look at The Lone Ranger and Tonto, is a collection of weak jokes strung together by a servant-becomes-master theme.

Tonto takes abuse at first, but turns the tables on Kemosabi and relegates his fatuous boss to an inferior position. The mask, silver bullet and white horse, all familiar symbols to viewers of *The Lone Ranger*, lose their noble significance through satire.

The Turning of the Shrew by Dorothy TylerSmith shows the influence of James Thurber's *Unicorn in the Garden*, depicting a harangueful wife and downtrodden husband.

Ernestine, fat and miserable, is as unattractive as she is selfish. The dialogue of this shrew is spiked with hate. "Wake up, stupid, I don't want to miss my soaps," she orders her husband, the seemingly obedient chauffeur.

Several questions are unanswered. Why is divorce, not death, out of the question for Clarence? What inner unhappiness is creating Ernestine's misery?

In *Manuscript 33* the handling of emotionally charged themes, such as adolescent growing pains, one woman's approaching middle age and a foreigner's attempt to fit into America, must be a rite of passage for beginning writers.

First place winning poem *Tough* allows many interpretations of its title.

Tough can apply to Jane's toilsome job as a maid for an Encino resident, her hardened self, or her teenage experience in a wild motorcycle gang.

The poet melds reality with fantasy by having the lines on Jane's aging, wrinkled face drip through the floor of her stark, colorless apartment.

In other selections, several poets snobbishly imply that their perception is above others.

In contrast, to gain entrance to the views of the patient and imaginative artists, one need only to follow poet/cyclist Nancy Weeden through *Slowly*.

Objects appearing ordinary and meriting discard, such as beer bottles, a lifeless bird and leaves, become sources of delight to our unhurried pedaler. The poet challenges our assumptions of what is beauty, giving regal quality to some trumpet vines "calling a silent message." Never does she use the word trash.

In Katherine Niemela's *Death of a Psychiatric Nurse*, a roof's edge is used as a metaphor for the brink of suicide. Some hang on tight to the railing. One psychiatric nurse plunges into death.

Manuscript, published by the English Department, is written, edited and produced entirely by Valley College students. *Manuscript 33* co-editors are S. Clover Phalen and Nancy Weeden.

Horseshoe presents 'The Diviners'

Situated along a river bank, a once prosperous town had a church which was the center for the entire surrounding community.

Now the church lies in ruins. C.C. Showers, a former preacher comes to this small village to find his personal vision.

He is hired by auto garage owner Ferris Layman who is a widower with two nearly-adult children. His son Buddy is a strange boy, possess-

ing mystical powers. His gift is finding water, although he is terrified of it.

Written by Jim Leonard Jr. *The Diviners* is now being presented at the theater arts department Horseshoe Theatre. The play frames the realistic study of the interests and concerns of a rural community.

Directed by Professor John Larson, *The Diviners* is a humorous and emotional look at hopes and fears, both the understood and the inex-

plicable, with a focus on the strengthening, yet hidden powers of water and nature.

The principal actors are Dylan Kussman (Buddy Layman), Daniel Murphy (the reverend), Michael D. Roarke (Buddy's father) and Rudy Dale Wright (Basil).

Performances are at 8 p.m. on June 2, 3, 4. For reservations call (818) 781-1200 ext. 353. General admission is \$5, students and senior citizens, \$3.

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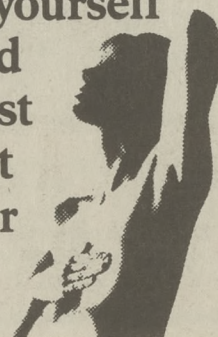
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Top students and alumni

Rock world pulsates in Shock's rhythm

By MARIA HAMAGAKI
Entertainment Editor

In a harmonious blend of sounds, the vibrating music of rock band Shock pulsated with resonance and raised the energy level to a delightful frenzy at Chuck Landis' Country Club in Reseda.

The band commanded total attention, and spectators became Shock-unresistant to wild, yet disciplined music.

Comprised of seven Valley students and Alumni, Shock flaunted tight vocals, fancy choreography, comedy and musical variations enveloped in charismatic charm.

Their rock renditions were subtly meshed with jazz. One song had the intricate 5/4 rhythm. Old favorite tunes such as *I Feel Good*, *Peter Gunn* and *In the Mood* completed the performance.

Vocalist Jamie Rae displayed a soulful, sharp, clear voice. He was complemented by the tight vocal harmonies of Gregg Babuscio on bass and Robin Longley on guitar.

Rae, Longley and Babuscio generated excitement, exhibiting a never-tiring aerobics of sensual

movements.

Roger Carter on drums underscored the crisp, hard rock with his complicated rhythms. The horn section added brilliance of sound plus a touch of class, since they aristocratically wore sunglasses.

Shock's song are originals, composed by Rae, Carter, Longley and Babuscio. They create an idea and then work toward the song's completion by trial and error.

Trombonist Brian Raymond, baritone saxophonist Jon Rossman and tenor saxophonist Paul Knaack later work on the horns' score effectively.

Carter, Knaack and Rossman are enrolled in band, a class at the music department taught by Professor Don Nelligan.

"After coming out of jazz band one day," Knaack said, "Jon and I were asked by Roger Carter if we'd be interested in putting some horns in a rock band."

"He said, 'I guess you guys are kind of goofy and funny,'" Rossman added.

Carter continued, "We wanted horn players and looked around. These guys were walking in every day late with sunglasses. So we figured, our kind of guys."

The *Night and Day* horn section has been together for a year, which accounts for their synchronization. Prior to Shock, they were with *Question*.

The band has been together for six months. The horn section was added in March and this last performance at the Country Club was Shock's fourth gig as a seven piece band.

"This is our last show as an opening band," Knaack said. Next show we'll have the second slot. We're getting noticed and moving up in ranks.

"Hopefully, we'll become a featured headliner within the next six months. Shock's ambition is to do what *Warrant* has done in five years, in one."

Babuscio is not only the bass player but also the manager. "Gregg is the financial master mind," Rossman said.

"I'm doing all the bookings," Babuscio said, "but I'm looking for management. Because I'm stressing out. I'll pull my hair out if I keep dealing with money."

"I just want to think about my guitar being in tune. It's getting hectic." He added then eventually an agent will approach them.

Since they are getting recognition, Shock is in the process of arranging a record contract. With a big smile, Babuscio emphasized, "Capitol or CBS Records would be just fine."

"They were here tonight," Babuscio said. "I think we're getting close. We're getting interviews in magazines all the time and a lot of promotion."

Shock will be featured in the next issues of *Screamer* and *Band* magazines.

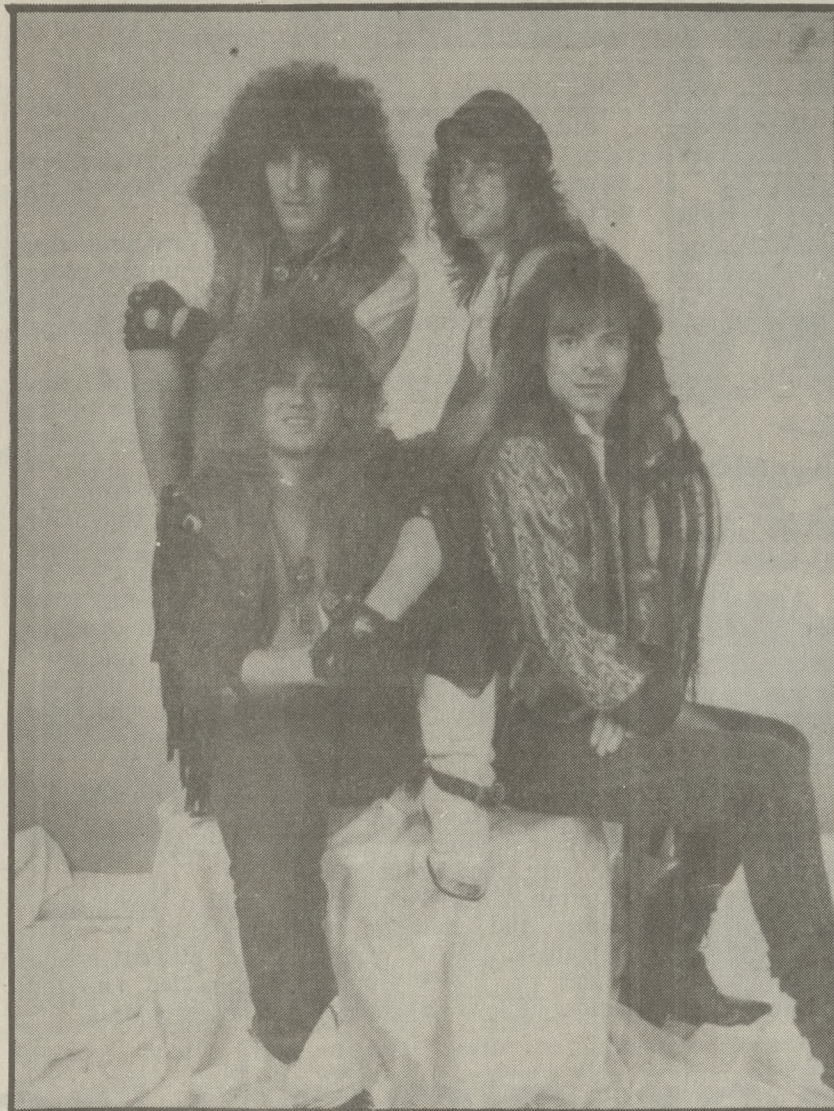
Their tenacity and straight focus will eventually get them their rewards. The band rehearses five nights a week and "promotes for the other two," said Babuscio. "We don't even have girl friends. We can't do much of anything."

"The band eats, lives and sleeps Shock," Knaack said.

"The whole band is living together," Babuscio said. "We just got a four bedroom house. We were living in a warehouse, which was our rehearsal room, and it had no



Jon Rossman, Paul Knaack and Brian Raymond are Shock's horn section.



Four Shock band members are drummer Roger Carter, Gregg Babuscio on bass, Vocalist Jamie Rae and guitarist Robin Longley.

shower. But now we have a shower and a kitchen. We're feeling good."

The trained musicians are the horn players and drummer. Bass and guitarist play by ear. Knaack explained that Rae, Babuscio and Longley are "very professional", blessed with an innate rhythmic and musical sense. Without any problems, the members capture complicated rhythms and music with incredible quickness.

At the end of summer, Shock will tour Las Vegas, Phoenix and Tucson. On June 4, Shock will play at Gazzari's, a night club on the Sunset Strip.

"We're playing a late-night slot,

which is after *Odin*," Babuscio said. "But the place will be packed."

He said that now since they have added the horn section, they are getting the deserved recognition.

On July 8 from Long Beach, Shock will perform for three hours on a boat cruise. Tickets are \$13.50, including dinner.

The band intends to take the rock world by Shock in a matter of no time. They will. And to think, Valley College has been the catalyst.

For information about the boat cruise and other engagements call *The Shock Line* (818) 997-7290. Fan mail can be sent to 14749 Oxnard St, Van Nuys, CA. 91411.

Theater gifts community

Everybody is talking about getting back to nature and suddenly along comes someone to reprise a dearly missed, grass roots concept; legitimate outdoor theater, performed in a quaint backyard setting. And as if that is not enough, admission is free.

It's refreshing to know there are professionals who believe so strongly in their crafts and what theater means to America. They are willing to donate their time, talents and skills as a collective gift to the community.

The California Cottage Theatre is now presenting the mini-musical *Box Prelude* and *A Cold Day in Hell* by Jan Quackenbush.

Seating is limited. For an invitation call (818) 990-5773. Lemonade and cookies are served during intermission.

—Sheri Roberts

Upcoming campus events

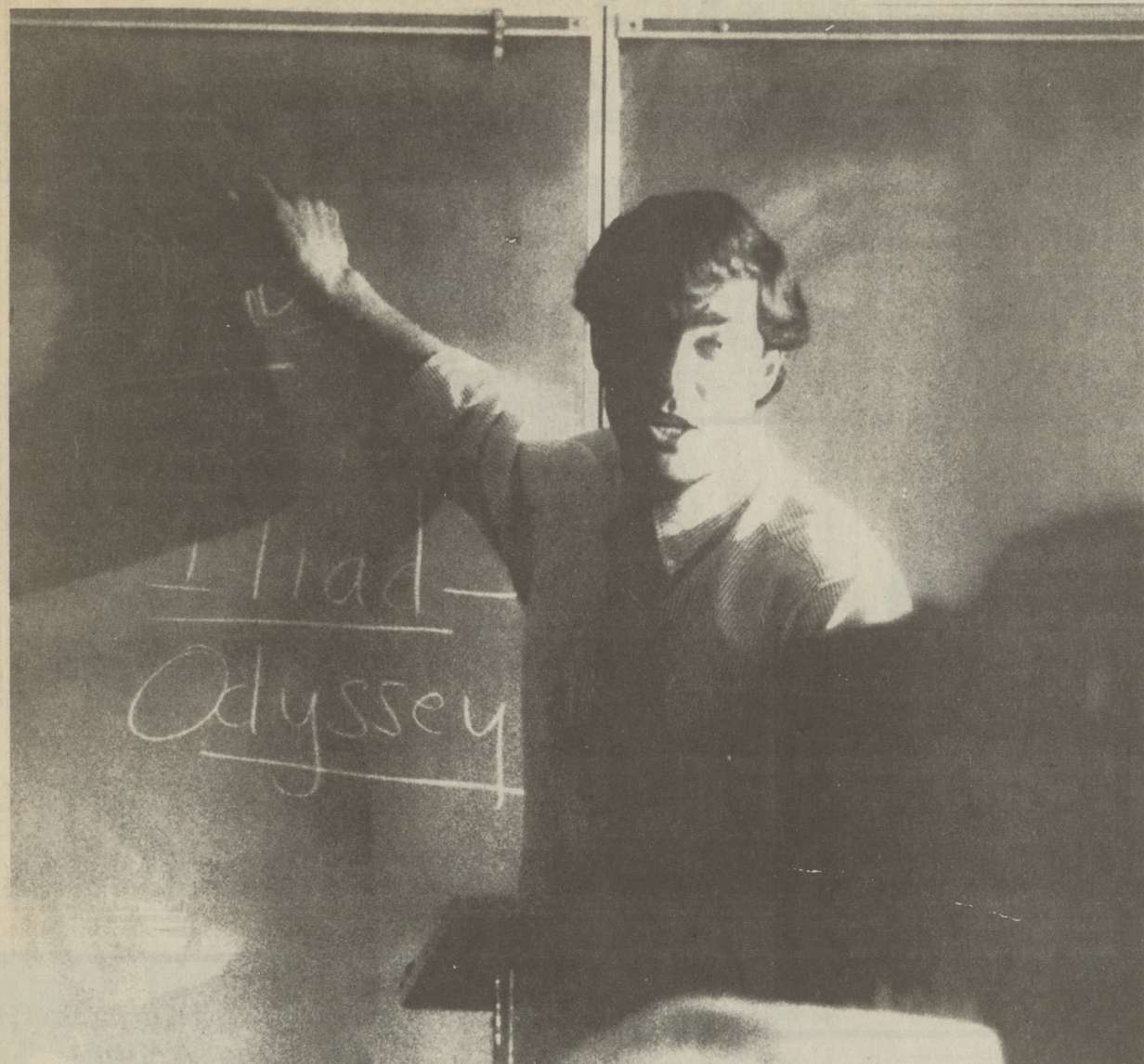
The Diviners at the theater art dept.'s Horseshoe Theatre at 8 p.m. on June 2, 3, 4.

The Pearl Diver at Theatre Art Bldg.'s Lab Theatre at noon & 8 p.m. on June 7 & 8 p.m. on June 8.

LAVC Chamber Ensembles at Music Bldg.'s Recital Hall, 11 a.m. on June 2.

Playboy's Jazz Festival will be presented at Monarch Square from 1:30 to 5 p.m. on June 12. KGO Radio Jazz station will broadcast the first 30 minutes. Scheduled to perform are *Justo Almaria Band* from 1:30 to 2:20 p.m., *Uncle Festive* from 2:45 to 3:35 p.m. and *Kirk Whalum* from 4 to 5 p.m.


11 O'clock Jazz at Twelve at Music Bldg.'s Room 112, noon on June 8.



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Horror cuts into heart of an American home

By JUDITH WAXMAN
Staff Writer

Last year, my mother died, suddenly, unexpectedly, while I was with her. In shock, I called my brother, Jack, now my only living relative and together, in the Jewish tradition, we buried our mother next to our father.

In the month that followed, with a profound sense of loss and sorrow, we emptied our mother's apartment of her possessions. Jack also packed his property of collectables (closets full of plates, coins and stamps) that he had stored in the apartment.

When this had been accomplished, my good friend Richard and I entered the apartment to gather up the last odds and ends. "What's this?" Richard asked when I handed him a long, wooden table leaf. He unhooked something from the back of the table leaf and showed it to me: a small plastic bag, containing three Nazi penknives.

Immediately, I knew that it was one of Jack's "collectables." As I hadn't had any prior knowledge of it, I felt that my dad's spirit had caught the knives on the table leaf for me to see.

"My brother brought that Hitler filth into my mother's home," I said, angrily. Richard, who knew my mother was a deeply religious, traditional Jew, was shocked.

I called Jack: "Isn't there anything you wouldn't do for a buck? How could you bring that Nazi garbage into mom's home when your own grandmother and aunt were killed by the Nazis?"

During World War II, over 6 million Jewish men, women and children were murdered in Nazi Germany's "death camps." The burned prison number on Jewish arms often coincided with the number of Jews slaughtered in a day, or a week.

Tortured, starved, humiliated, persecuted, gassed and incinerated, they died, not for what they did, but for what they were: Jewish.

In the early '40s, the last ship to leave Poland arrived in America. My father, Sam Waxman, went to meet it. Aboard was my grandfather, Hona, my father's father. My grandfather's plan was to come first, find a job and then send for the women. But he waited too long. The Holocaust changed his plan.

My dad's life-long anguish and anger began when he found out that his mother, Shandol, my grandmother, had been gassed and incinerated in a German crematorium. My dad's younger sister, Hilda, was also killed in a German concentration camp.

Hitler's hatred started with his tyrannical, abusive father, Alois, who meted out harsh, relentless discipline. Hitler was cruelly beaten, even for trivial offenses.

Hitler's hatred of the Jews began when a Jewish physician treated his mother, Clara, who died. Thus the seeds of the Holocaust were sown.

Although the Holocaust was an ocean away and Nazis never set foot on these shores, their actions

reached out—and changed—my life and the lives of my family.

Because of what happened to my family, I admit that I'm prejudiced against all Germans. I see them as Nazis. Yet, I'm still human first.

Once, I had a conversation with a German woman who lived in my building, the *only* German I ever liked. I asked her to come up and visit. For two hours, we conversed and communicated, getting to know one another.

Then, quietly and calmly, we spoke of the Holocaust. During the war, she had lived in Germany. Yet, she too, "didn't know" what had happened in Germany.

Of course, not *all* Germans were Nazis, but if you believe what all Germans say, *none* of them were Nazis and shouldn't receive *any* punishment.

In recent years, however, there is justice in Jerusalem. For his crimes against the Jewish people, Adolph Eichmann, a brutal, inhumane concentration camp officer, was executed in May 1962. Now, for his own atrocities, Jon Ivan Demjanjuk, a sadistic concentration camp guard, was sentenced to death in May 1988.

Both men/monsters said they were "innocent." *The 6 million Jews who were murdered were innocent.*

Truly innocent were my grandmother and aunt, Hilda. As a young girl, I resembled Hilda and felt guilty that I was alive and she wasn't. I was haunted by the Holocaust and have tried to make my life meaningful because of it.

My dad died 13 years ago, before I became a writer. I always knew that one day I'd write about the Holocaust and tell the story of my dad's family.

It isn't easy when the one person who loves you, without any reservation or qualification, dies and you know that no one will ever love you like that again.

I love you dad. This one's for you.



GIANNI PIROYANO/Valley Star

A soldier captured by silence

By ABRAHAM LENKAWICKI
Special to the Valley Star

On the night of January 17, 1945, Warsaw, the capitol of Poland and the city of my birth, was recaptured by Allied troops. I was a part of this military offensive action which put the Germans into a retreat of more than a hundred miles.

By dawn the next morning a temporary bridge was made ready to provide access into the city and I was standing before my Commander, Captain Salishchev, requesting permission to visit the town.

He answered my request, with an emotional "epistle" on how to behave once I got to Warsaw. I will take the words he spoke with me to my grave.

"Abraham, don't be in a hurry to see," he said, looking at me with eyes full of sorrow. "Your home town . . . after an absence of six years!"

"Is this a psychological anesthetic," I said, "prior to a mental operation that you are trying to give me Captain?"

Ignoring my question he continued, "I returned to my home town Minsk, and didn't find one person or thing! No wife, no children and no home! I returned after only 13 months and all was gone!"

"I have seen enough up to now to strengthen my heart," I replied.

"I see that you have forgotten your behavior six months ago when you did not visit Maydanek," he replied.

[Maydanek . . . I am deeply ashamed to put this into words, but it is time for me to tell of my actions at Maydanek. During the Fall, 1944, our units captured the territory where the killing factory was . . . Maydanek.]

I got a day off from Captain Salishchev plus his command car and his driver. Above the entrance gate to the death camp was an inscription in German: "ARBAIT MACHT FRAY" - work will free you.

I couldn't pass under this inscription. I was chicken! Were my kin more heroic knowing they were condemned? I asked the driver to take me back to our camp. For two days I couldn't leave my room. Afterwards I learned that the Captain had forbade anyone to disturb me.]

None-the-less I stiffened my back and said "I'll behave according to the created situations."

"You better tighten the belt around your brain as well as your heart Abraham," he said, (a popular saying at the time when soldiers approached the atrocities of the Hitler butchers and arsonists) "before you start walking on the hot smoldering remnants of your Warsaw because of what you may see there . . ."

"Thanks for the permission and the mental preparation Captain Salishchev," I said.

He nodded his head and a smile crossed his face. "I wish you better luck than was my share," he said. "I'll take care of your platoon. Here is a pass for you in case the Russian MPs stop you. Don't forget to take food with you, there is no food in Warsaw! Go and return in peace Abraham."

This was the moment I had been waiting and fighting for since September 1939. I was home again, if only for a short time on my way to Berlin. My mind raced with thoughts. What and whom would I find in Warsaw? What was it that my Commander had tried to prepare me for?

Even as an officer, it wasn't easy to be one of the first to reach Warsaw. The 350 yard-long bridge over

UPON my ruins
May flowers bloom
Whose roots are fed
By my inhabitants bodies.

UPON my ruins
Stems shall be gray
As the gray-ashes
Of my inhabitants bones.

UPON my ruins
Leaves shall be red
As the out-flowed blood
From my inhabitants veins.

UPON my ruins
Receptacles shall be black
As the outburned sockets
Of my inhabitants eyes.

GHETTO WARSAW AT 1943

UPON my ruins
Pollens of their blossoming
Shall resemble the fossilized teeth
In my inhabitants skulls.

UPON my ruins
Sun's only one black-ray
Be sent by day 'and night'
Illuminating my inhabitants plight!

UPON my ruins
Those strange flowers grow?
As a life "MOMENTO-MORY" point
On my inhabitants most holiest ground!

UPON my ruins
They destroyed only their flesh.
Remembrances, love-sigh, and prayers
Of my inhabitants will remain fresh.

NOT . . . upon my ruins
NOT . . . on another place in the world!
All flowers will say - it is enough!
NEVER WILL A MASSADA HAPPEN AGAIN!

by: Abraham Lenkawicki

[In Memory of my two sisters, REBEKA(16) and LEAH(15), whose souls rose to heaven with the crematorium smoke of Maydanek to which they were taken from Ghetto Warsaw in 1943.]

the Vistula river was a narrow one, resting on pontoons (big, metallic boats) and the traffic was heavy.

I had left Warsaw with my unit the same day the war started. Now, after 64 months, I was crossing this river again.

The war was still in its phase of finishing the butchers . . . and the road to Berlin was a long one. I had not swum in the Vistula river since the day I left Warsaw to fight the Germans, would the coming year spare me from death for another swim in its waters or had the Germans produced a single bullet with my name engraved on it?

As I touched the soil of my birth, thoughts raced in my mind. It couldn't happen! My daughter and wife MUST return to Warsaw. Would my daughter find her a gran'pa or a gran'a?

The non-stop rain dampened my fevered thoughts and brought me back to the reality of my surroundings. I had crossed my personal "Rubicon." The rain was shedding tears . . . but my eyes were hot and dry!

My aim was clear. I wanted to reach the "Umshlagplatz" at the north train station. The so-called Gdanski (Danzic), from there people condemned to die by the Germans were sent in train loads to Maydanek to be incinerated alive in the Crematoriums!

I passed a park. Instead of trees, I saw a primitive missile installation loaded with live rockets that the Germans had left in panic. The horrible impact of the ruins filled the retina of my eyes whether my eyes were open or closed.

The worst impact was the absence of voices, a deafening quietness. It was unbearable. I could hear the raindrops hitting the ground. Not a person to see or hear . . . horrible.

I bit my tongue to make sure I was not dreaming. Such devastation; only the Teutons could have made it! Not two bricks were sticking together. Broken bricks, crushed mortar were piled up yards high.

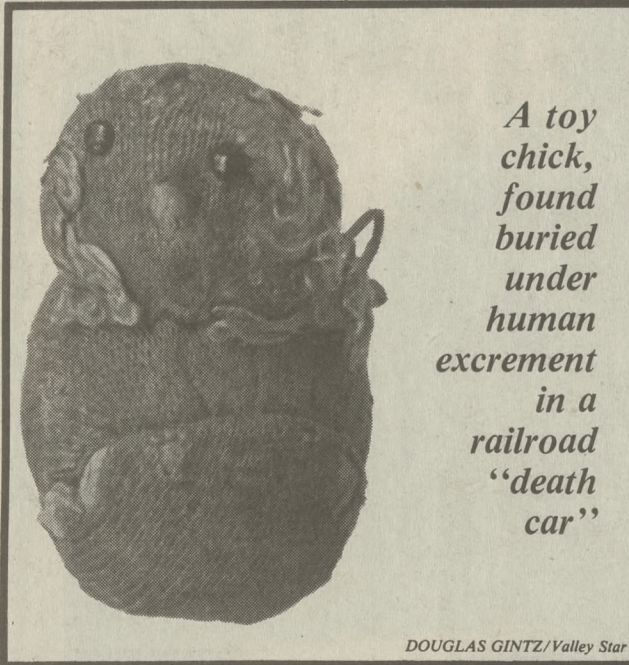
Two days of rain penetrated the ruins and the cool winter air diminished the stink of the desolated city. Thousands upon thousands were buried beneath the rubble during the inhuman German bombing of this Jewish region of the open city of Warsaw.

Through the middle of the ruins, looking like a deep "canyon" of rubble without a single piece of wall left as a sign of the four-story buildings which had lined both sides of the street, were push-carts idling on a narrow train track.

Set up methodically in German order and full of bricks recovered from the surrounding debris, they must have been operated up to the last minute. Who had done this work of Syzyfius. Where were the pushers of these carts?

I discovered their corpses at the jail on Gensia street. They were the remnants of the last "IMPORTED JEWS." Those who had been brought here for work and annihilation from as far as Greece!

I started to walk on the planks joining the rails of the tracks. Even with my good military boots, it was painful to step on the splinters of the sharp edges of mortar and bricks. What kind of shoes or footwear, if any, did they have, these slaves?



A toy chick, found buried under human excrement in a railroad "death car"

DOUGLAS GINTZ/Valley Star

I approached the "Umshlagplatz" the most dreaded and terrifying name for the Jewish inhabitants of Warsaw! It was a separated complex of buildings behind high fences and divided into separate sections as in a cattle market. It had been built by the Germans as an extension of the Gdanski railroad station.

Only one day had passed since the Nazis were forced to give up Warsaw and signs of havoc and desolation were visible everywhere. Fat cats, big rats and free-running, well fed dogs came near me to smell me as if my flesh would be a meal for them.

Standing on the bloody soil of the ruins of the Warsaw ghetto with a bleeding heart numbed out of human comprehension, I was the only living Jew there with the destination for "life" and fight.

Through those buildings hundreds of thousands of Jews were sent by railroad cars to their deaths . . . to Maydanek. My two sisters and brothers, were among them. And where had the rest disappeared to? Which of those cats, rats or dogs had tasted the flesh of my kin?

Many cars, with signs of European countries such as Italy, France and even neutral Spain, were still stand-

ing there. I entered a car and looked around.

It reminded me of the car the Russians sent me to Siberia in as a POW in 1940 (73 of us were enclosed for 33 days without touching the Russian soil with our boots), but that car was double the size of the one in which I stood and had a hole cut in the center of the floor.

How had these people taken care of their bodily functions during their last ride? The condition of the car was the answer! I was thankful that the outside air was cool and the period of fermentation of the excrement had passed so that the stench had not hit me the moment I entered.

In a dark corner something was shining, small and yellow. I scratched it out from the dirty mess and lifted it to the light.

It was a toy in the shape of a yellow chick. Smaller than a true chick and dirty, with two black beads sewed into its head. It was to me on that morning after the liberation of Warsaw, the most beautiful chicken of its kind . . . a golden chick.

I enclosed it in my palm. Where was that child now, the owner of the dirty chick, in whose imagination it must have been the most beautiful chicken in the world? How old was the child when . . . ?

Where was its mother? A mother who had found the willpower to create this toy in a place where thousands were killed every day. A place where the life of a cat or dog was more secure than the life of a Jewish infant.

I stood immobile as black thoughts overwhelmed me. And then, as the little yellow chick had shone through the dirty mess on the floor of the car, a ray of hope lit my dark brooding.

"I'm a soldier fighting for my wife and daughter in Siberia and for all. It's possible that she doesn't enjoy comfort there but she is secure and as a VICTOR, I will meet them some day in the future (but how distant a future?)."

I hid my little chick and with bare palm, scraped a bit of the uncleanness of mud mixed with human excrement from the floor.

I wrapped the only existing remnant of all those who were sent on their last journey in that car in a handkerchief in which I carried bits of soil and ashes from two other places devastated by the Germans.

I put all these very "personal relics" into the top pocket of my soldier's shirt, on top of my heart which was bursting with unbearable pain.

My eyes were dry but the heavens kept "weeping." Crying for the lowest level of inhuman-humanity. It was raining uninterrupted for the second day.

On May 10, 1946, my wife and daughter returned from Siberia to our home where my unit was stationed. I did all I could to convince my wife NOT TO VISIT WARSAW!



April/May 1988: Anti-Jewish/pro-Nazi literature placed in bathrooms on LAVC campus

NATURE IS CRUEL, so we must also be cruel. If I send the flower of the German people into the inferno of war without the slightest compassion for the precious blood that is shed, we certainly have the right to eliminate millions of human beings belonging to inferior races that multiply like vermin.

ADOLF HITLER
Fuehrer

I CARE NOTHING about what happens to Russians or Czechs . . . Whether other peoples live in prosperity or die of starvation interests me only insofar as we need them as slaves . . . If ten thousand Russian women die of exhaustion while digging an antitank ditch, it interests me only insofar as the antitank ditch is completed for Germany.

HEINRICH HIMMLER
Head of the SS

MONTH OF MAY

- 1940 German invasion of Wstrn Europe
- 1942 Germans break Russian resistance
- 1942 Zionist congress in Wash. discusses foundation of Jewish state in Palestine
- 1942 Heydrich Planned Nazi concentration camps & "Final Solution" killed by Czech patriots
- 1944 Preparations for D-Day begin
- 1945 Unconditional surrender of all German forces at Rheims
- 1962 Adolph Eichmann executed
- 1988 Demjanjuk sentenced to death

Into the 21st century

Will 'light rail' solve Valley transit needs?

By CATHERINE GUNN
Staff Writer

In the year 2010, San Fernando Valley residents will know whether today's city and county officials planned effectively, during the interim years, for the traffic predicted to clog the streets and freeways.

This fall the Los Angeles County Transportation Commission (LACTC) will rule on which portion of the county will be next to build a rail transit system.

A 32-member citizen's advisory panel, appointed by the Los Angeles City Council, is now studying routes and modes of transit for the San Fernando Valley.

The panel's weekly meetings are open to the public. The location of the meeting is changed every week so that all areas of the Valley can host the panel.

Proposition A, passed in November 1980, increased local sales tax by 0.5 percent and stipulated that 35 percent of the

rail can function independently, under Proposition A the Valley's light rail system must connect with Metro Rail.

Metro Rail, currently under construction in downtown Los Angeles, is considered heavy rail.

Monorail and magnetic levitation systems are also available. These forms must be elevated. The advisory panel must decide the grade, or level, at which the trains will be built. Three grades—street level, underground or elevated are available.

City Council has the option of following the panel's recommendation or submitting a new plan to the LACTC.

A rail transit project takes a minimum of eight years to complete, from exploring possible routes to the end of construction, according to the LACTC.

Last November the LACTC finally gave up in despair after homeowners strongly opposed the five proposed routes. At this time

billion have been made for Metro Rail and two other projects, the Long Beach-Los Angeles line and the Century-El Segundo line.

The last money available from Proposition A before the year 2010 totals \$750 million. It has not yet been decided which area of the county will receive the funds.

"If we want rail transit, we must make it a priority or we will not get the money," says Richard Smith, member of the citizen's advisory panel.

Two months ago Mayor Bradley wanted an advisory referendum on the June 7 ballot asking voters three questions: "Shall a San Fernando Valley rail system be constructed; an citizen's advisory panel appointed to recommend routes; and the LACTC be requested to reserve funds for the San Fernando Valley?"

The fee imposed by the county to add measures to the ballot was increased by 800 percent recently, and some members of council felt the \$640,000 price tag was too high. Bradley's recommendation was defeated 6-4.

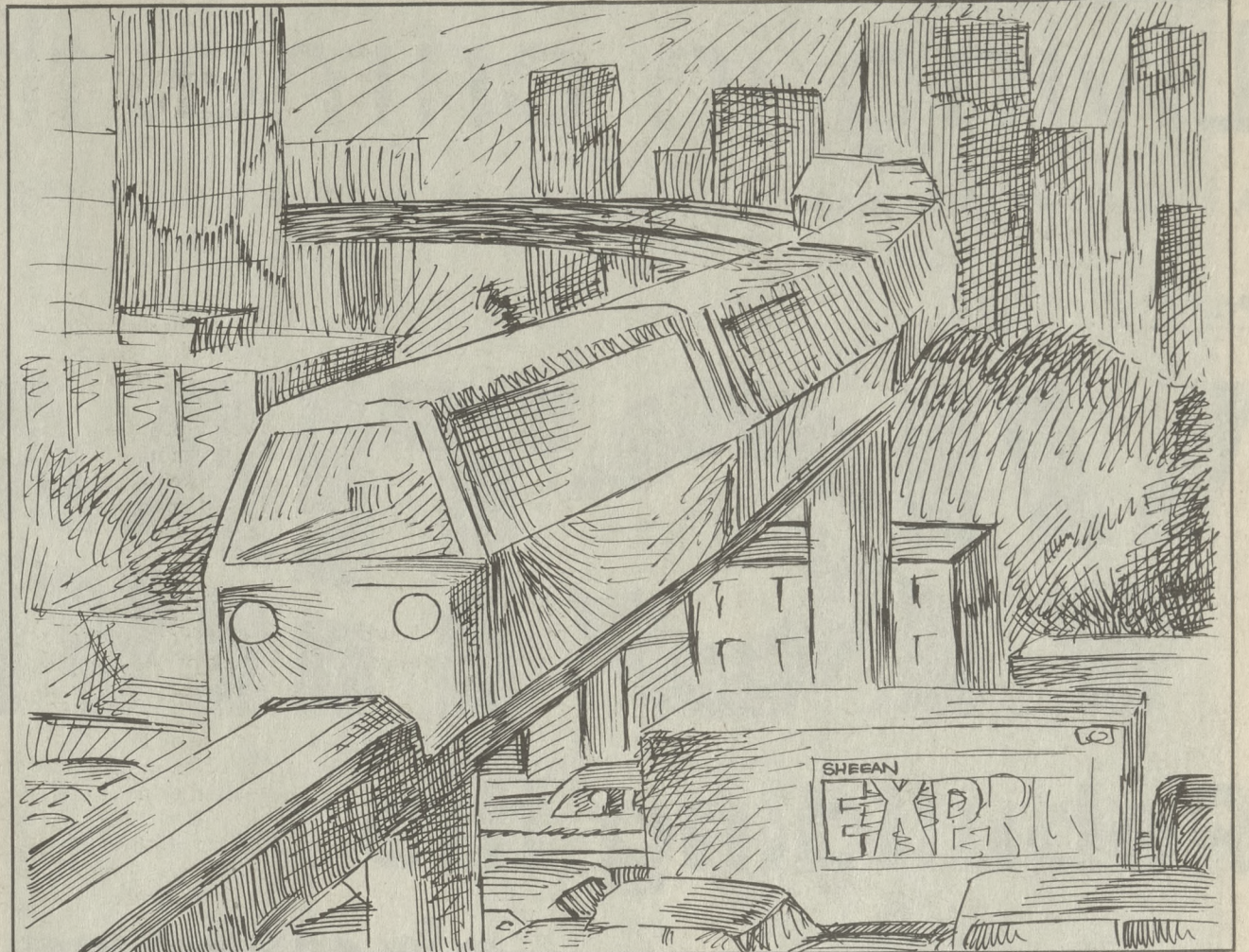
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich sent 200,000 questionnaires to Valley residents. Of the 10,000 respondents, 90 percent were in favor of light rail or some rail transit system in the Valley, according to Rosa M. Kortizija, assistant deputy to the supervisor.

Proponents of light rail tout its adaptability to communities. Abandoned property, the rights to which the government already claims or can purchase, can be put to new use when a train system with overhead wires is added.

A seldom-used railroad line, a utility corridor and highway median strips are convenient rights-of-way. Light rail, unlike heavy rail, can be built on all kinds of existing rights-of-way, which eliminates the problem of having to acquire people's homes through eminent domain.

The original route planned for the Valley would have connected with Metro Rail in North Hollywood.

Opposition to the proposed Southern Pacific Burbank (Topham/Chandler) Route came from a group of Orthodox Jews in



the East Valley who objected to having to walk over the tracks on their way to temple.

In the face of this dissent, the LACTC proposed four other routes in early 1987: the Los Angeles River Flood Control Channel Route, the Ventura Freeway Route, the Southern Pacific Main "Coast" Line Route and the Victory Boulevard Route.

It was no easier to sell the alternate light rail routes to the Valley's 18 small communities.

When Julie Fine, citizen's advisory panel member, bought her home in Reseda, the realtor promised her that the Southern Pacific Railroad tracks near her property were used only once a day.

She was told this lumber route would be abandoned soon, and the land would be for sale, with the possibility that a park would soon be built.

Two years ago she might have believed him.

In December 1986, Fine became worried when the LACTC informed her it was studying the possibility of a light rail route on the tracks. She organized her neighbors into a strong block by making phone calls and distributing letters.

Fine spoke out against the destruction of her son's Little League field to make way for a light rail station parking lot and of her fear that construction would create

hazards for children.

The LACTC offered to build soundwalls and dense foliage to lessen the noise. Fine appreciated the LACTC's attempts at mitigation with the community, but the answer was still "no."

Because of Fine's involvement with the grassroots homeowners coalition, her first political activism ever, Councilwoman Joy Picus rewarded Fine with a seat on the 32-member advisory panel.

According to the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG), in 1984 there were 40.2 million daily trips taken on the streets and freeways of the San Fernando Valley.

In 2010 this number could be increased by 42 percent, with 57 million daily trips projected for that year by SCAG.

One proposal to build a monorail over the Ventura Freeway, would target commuters going from Thousand Oaks into downtown Los Angeles as potential riders.

SCAG surveyed 200,000 Los Angeles residents and found that 4.5 percent use public transportation.

"This means we're spending billions in Los Angeles for 4.5 percent of the population," says Fine, who believes that the same people who are transit dependent now will be the ones using light rail, and "the people who live in Encino are not going to give up their Mercedes."

Kortizija added that even the best rail transit system will not be successful unless "a sophisticated network of jitneys and vans" is developed to carry commuters from the rail stations.

Synchronized traffic signals, one-way streets and staggered work hours are other possible solutions to prevent gridlock from clogging the thoroughfares in the next century.

"There are 60,000 government employees who commute downtown," says Kortizija. "Satellite locations for these central offices would be helpful."

Under the originally proposed route (which ran from the East Valley through Van Nuys to Warner Center in the West Valley), "we were paying for a route which would benefit the business sector," says Fine. "I don't see hordes of people going to Warner Center."

"An origin and destination rider-ship survey should have been done," she says.

"The city centers [Warner Center in Woodland Hills and the Van Nuys civic center] are not where transit dependent people run to in the Valley. Light rail has worked in other cities," says Fine, calling for better planning of the routes.

Fine sees the need for limits on development in the Valley. "I don't see anything wrong with saying, 'We're filled up here,'" she says.

revenue was to be set aside for a countywide mass transit system.

Rail transit has a variety of forms. Light rail transit is a generic term for systems which carry less passengers (an average of 6,000 per hour) than heavy rail cars (an average of 24,000 per hour), but also cost less to build.

Underground heavy rail costs around \$200 million per mile, while light rail costs \$50 million per mile.

Heavy rail can only be run at two grades: below the ground or elevated. It requires an exclusive guideway because pedestrians will be killed if they cross an electrified third rail. Light rail, on the other hand, can be run on city streets.

Although either light rail or heavy

the LACTC gave local elected officials the task of determining a route.

"We all want something, we just want it to be fair," says Bobbi Fiedler, former U.S. representative and member of the panel. "These projects don't belong in backyards."

Gerald Silver, of the All Valley Transportation Coalition, says, "The heavy-handed and tyrannical manner in which the LACTC operated was the wrong approach."

Silver complains that the LACTC did not ask people most affected by the proposed routes for their opinion.

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Living in crime: the American way

A five-part series examining the rapid growth of crime in the United States, with special features on drugs, gangs and the justice system.

Part 5

VICTIMS

Rebuilding the shattered lives

By KATHY CROUCH
OPAL CULLINS
CHRISTINA ICAMEN

All of us at one time or another has experienced some physical or emotional pain that left us asking the unanswerable question, "Why me?" For some, that pain has come from a violent attack or rape. For others, a home break-in is enough to leave a family feeling that their personal privacy has been invaded beyond repair.

The moment one of us becomes a victim of crime, our world changes instantly. Where once we were secure in our daily comings and goings, we are left with feelings of fear and terror. Victims of rape and brutal assault find themselves unable to trust others after their terrible physical and emotional ordeal. The shock felt is tremendous. "How could this have happened to me?" "Was it my fault?" "Could I have done anything to prevent it?"

Beyond the crime, readjustment to daily life is a slow and arduous process. For many women, a loving father/daughter relationship is shattered after rape. He innocently becomes a subconscious reminder of the male rapist to the emotionally destroyed daughter. For some, the bond can never be re-established.

On May 20, 1988, the suburban town of Winnetka, Illinois, was turned upside down when 30-year-old Laurie Dann, a psychologically disturbed woman, fired gunshots at youngsters at Hubbard Woods Elementary School. After observing a class in session, Dann walked into the boy's restroom of the school and pumped two bullets into six-year-old Robert Trossman, then returned to the same classroom, bolted the door, and opened fire on a group of innocent children.

"When the first child went down," substitute teacher Amy Moses told *People* magazine, "my first thought was, 'They're filming a movie and they forgot to tell me. They just forgot to tell me.'"

Many victims of crime experience the feeling of disbelief during the crime event. Facing the prospect of death or great physical harm seems almost unreal. There is nothing that ever prepares a person to become a victim.

"I really just went on automatic pilot," Moses said. "I don't know why she didn't shoot me, and I didn't think about it. I just thought about the children."

Eight-year-old Nicky Corwin was the only fatality in the shooting spree that left six others wounded. The unharmed children were left with a sense of wonderment about their own personal safety. Afterwards, Moses returned to comfort the shocked students. "I just held them and talked with them," she said. "I had an emotional need to touch base with them."

"After Nicky died," Moses said, "the children said things like, 'Now we're not going to be able to play fairly on the playground.' And when I asked why, they said, 'Because Nicky knew all the rules, and he always reminded us.'"

At the time of the incident, victim's assistance personnel, psychologists, social workers and clergy, came immediately to the crime scene. As Dr. Raymond Silverman, director of psychiatric services at Highland Park Hospital, explained to *People*, "We experienced a terrible random tragedy. Now we must do everything we can to prevent the secondary psychological trauma. We must prevent unreasonable fears about similar acts of random violence."

Therapy groups were also present at the hospital where the victims were taken. Said Maureen Garrity, director of social services at Highland Park Hospital, "I could feel their grief and shock. It hits you in the stomach, turns you cold with horror. But we had a job to do."

With violent crimes especially, victimization often extends beyond the assaulted person. Families of victims, and police officers and lawyers involved with the case can also be traumatized by the crime.

Social worker Leslie Kaplan spent time with the law enforcement officers and medical rescuers after the shooting. "These people have children of their own," she said. "They walked into this schoolroom to see these children lying in their own blood. It was an indelible image they couldn't get out of their minds."

L.A. County program largest in U.S.

Across the United States, there are 200 programs set up to assist victims of violent crime. The Los Angeles Victim/Assistance Program, designated by the board of supervisors and operated through District attorney's office, was established to provide direct service to victims and witnesses of violence. It is the largest program of its kind in the nation, with 30 staff members and 20 workers under subcontract, 12 L.A. County offices and 200 volunteers.

The program provides the services of mental health professionals, crisis-intervention specialists, and

domestic violence and rape crisis workers. Crime victims also can receive trial preparation, information on criminal sentencing and parole, translators, child care for parents going to court, emergency medical services, and food and material resources.

Counselors also help with applications to the state board of controller for monetary compensation (out of pocket loss).

Volunteers calm robbery victims, comfort battered wives and abused children, accompany victims and witnesses to court, helping many through a maze of interviews. They often smooth over potential dangerous family fights.

They work along side police during peak crime hours. Many volunteers were once victims themselves. Volunteer Carole DeLuca, a victim of incest as a child, said, "I had been there, I know what it is like to be a victim."

A majority of crime victims confessed that they would not go to court again if faced with a similar event in the future. One young wife who had been driven to the desert and raped, had to make reveal every sordid detail of the sexual attack four times, the first time to the police, second to the grand jury, then to the hostile defense in a lengthy deposition and finally to a trial jury only to see the conviction overturned on a technicality.

Victims often say that they are victimized twice—once by the criminal and once by criminal justice system. Many are banding together in response to help other victims cope with the emotional and financial trauma of crime—a cost which our society has been accused of ignoring.

Robert Grayson, who was nearly killed from an attack by the side of a New Jersey highway, lost one eye and employment for one year. "I felt that the system had made a fool of me," he said, when one of his four attackers went to prison for three months and the others

"Let them talk about the incident even though you have to hear it 9,000 times. . . . Encourage them to talk about it and not feel ashamed."

were freed on probation.

"There is a national tendency to treat victims like losers, or like they carry a dreaded disease," says John Stein, spokesperson for the National Organization for Victim Assistance. He also said that the families of murdered victims can often count on seeing their social network shrink, as friends shy away from the traumatic atmosphere of the violent crime.

In 1984 congress passed a law that lets victims tell courts how a particular crime affected them emotionally. These impact statements help guide judges in sentencing criminals. The law also sets aside up to \$100 million to fund state victim programs. The funds come from fines assessed to criminals.

"Mary": Stabbing victim's story

"Mary" was stabbed seven years ago at Dupars, a coffee shop on the southeast corner of Ventura and Laurel Canyon.

She was 18 at the time of the incident and was unaware of the violence that sometimes happens to people unexpectedly.

Around 11 p.m. "Mary" went upstairs with her girlfriend to the second floor where the bathrooms were located.

Before "Mary" walked into the restroom, she noticed two men talking on the phone outside the door of the restroom, but didn't give them a second thought. While her friend was in the stall, "Mary" was standing in front of the mirror primping up, when the two men walked into the bathroom.

"I acted like I wasn't scared," she related. "I said (in a joking tone), 'Oh, you're in the wrong bathroom.' They said, 'No were not.'"

At that point, "Mary" knew she was in danger. She started to run back and forth in front of the stall because the two men were blocking her only exit.

"I felt like a trapped rat," she said. "I told them not to hurt me and they started to laugh."

While they were laughing one of the men stabbed her twice. The first stab was aimed at her torso, but she reflexively turned away and caught the knife in her arm. The assailant stabbed again, puncturing her side and

slightly lacerating a lung.

She fell to the ground in shock and held her breath. She felt their presence in the room, so she pretended to be dead. The two men grabbed her purse and left.

After the stabbing, her friend came out of the stall and noticed there was blood all over "Mary" and the walls. Yet "Mary" was still able to run down the stairs after the men.

"The people at the restaurant were trying to help me," she said.

The police were notified and an ambulance was called. "Mary" was taken to Riverside Emergency Hospital for treatment.

While looking back on the incident, "Mary" seemed calm and almost aloof about the whole incident. "I am a lot more aware than I was before," she said. But as she tried to remember how she felt a few weeks afterwards she recalls "I felt scared, because they had my purse," she said. "I couldn't sleep at night, because they had my address."

"I'm just more careful, like I won't go into public bathrooms unless Jim, her husband, stands in front of the door."

The only time "Mary" saw the police was when they took her statement.

"Victims of Crime" an organization that helps victims gave "Mary" money to pay for the hospital bills and reimbursed her for the stolen items.

The Police never found the two men who stabbed "Mary", and she hopes that she will never see them again.

Victims of crime are left with a mental imprint of the violence that once struck their life. The victims sometimes have nightmares or flashbacks of the incident. They may experience eating disorders, a lack of trust towards people and sometimes friends and some victims isolate themselves, because they cannot cope with people.

The family members and friends of victims should understand that a violent crime could happen to anybody—even them. They should empathize with the victim and should lend support even though they may not understand.

"Let them talk about the incident even though you have to hear it 9,000 times," said clinical psychologist Willma Awerbuch. "Let the victim speak about it without cutting them off and saying 'Just forget about it

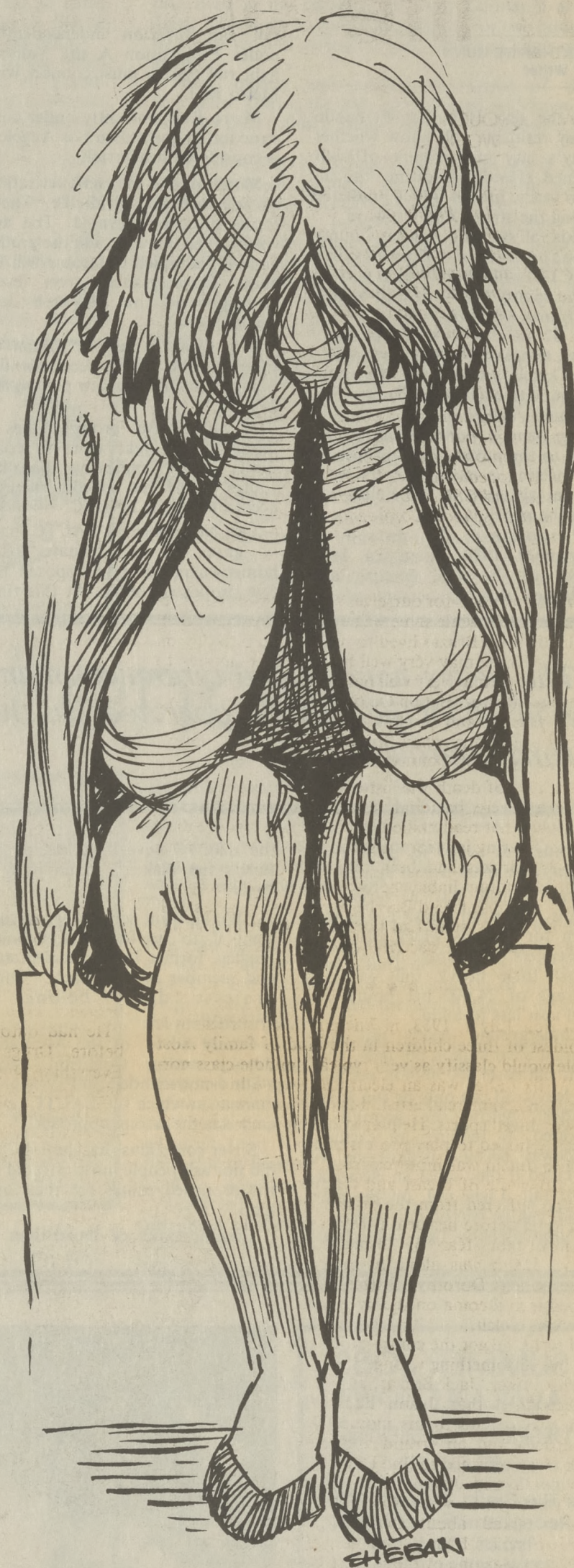
Victims' Assistance Telephone Numbers

Child Help USA (818) 347-7280
Family Violence Project . . (818) 363-8550
Haven Hills (818) 887-6589
Hotline for Rape, Incest
and Battered Women . . (818) 993-1139
Jewish Family Services . . (818) 363-8550
L.A. County Victim & Witness Assistance
Valley Offices (818) 901-3678
(818) 901-3688
Valley Trauma Center . . . (818) 772-0196
VTCHotline (818) 886-0453
Victims Anonymous (818) 993-1139

and go on with your life.' Encourage them to talk about it and not feel ashamed."

Depending on a persons previous support system, psychological makeup and the type of crime Awerbuch says a victim takes an average of three to six months to get over the incident.

"Encourage them to get help (if they can't get over the incident) and keep telling them that they are normal for feeling they way they do," she said.



The procedure for a victim in the assistance program is highly bureaucratic, and involves first the victim filling out an information form. The victim is then provided with a case worker who evaluates the information then refers the victim to the services needed or requested. He or she then has an interview with counselor and fills out another form.

Throughout the country, soaring levels of street crime since the 1960's have spread a shadow of fear over most U.S. cities. Virtually every citizen has been hit by crime or knows someone who has.

The Bureau of Justice reports that inner-city dwellers are 2.5 times more likely to be robbed than those who live in suburbs and rural areas. Men run twice the risk of women of being robbed or assaulted.

Criminologist James Q. Wilson says, "The pervasive fear of crime, is a threat to organized society. It erodes the sense of community of neighborhoods and weakens the confidence of people in their government."

A battered wife can seek refuge through the Family Violence project where counselors can help them get out of the physically-abusive environment, according to Ellen Ledley the project director.

There are two 24-hour hotlines which a battered wife can call and talk to someone about her problems. Trained specialists listen to these women, help them find shelters, help them seek counseling or whatever they need.

Non-emergency counseling for battered women, individual and family counseling is also available through the Family Violence Project.

Some of the counselors who work for the project have also suffered physical abuse.

Under the teen prevention program, the counselors are sent to Junior High and High schools where they make contact with physically abused children. The counselors help make the teenagers aware of the resources available to them.

A restraining order can be placed against an abusive husband as a first step to stopping him. The restraining orders, good for three years, can be obtained through the Superior Court system or through attorneys, who help speed up the process.

Former Valley student victimized by life of drug use

By KATHY CROUCH
SUSAN L. WOOD

I feel well today, but a touch sluggish. I'm happy because I feel I'm finally out of bondage. I'm hoping that in two weeks my hand will be healed and that I may go back to work. I want to find a job that will pay me \$200 a week and hopefully an evening job, so I may take biology this semester. My other goal is to get a bicycle, preferably a nice one, and to work out at the gym 2 to 3 times a week. I would like to pay Wells Fargo off as quickly as possible and then start to save for a car, which I will purchase for my birthday and graduation present to myself on 7-1-88.

My latest long term goal would probably make a lot of people laugh, but that's ok, I'll just keep it to myself. I want to go into the medical field and I believe I'd like to be an orthopedic doctor. I want to leave Val. College 6-88 and attend CSUN for 2 years and hopefully go to UCLA's med. school. Confidence is high!

—Justin Bruzas, 7-10-87

We all set goals for ourselves at one time or another. Some we reach, while some we never even begin to reach for. Had Justin Bruzas lived to see his 25th birthday on July 1, 1988, he may very well have been on his way to CSUN, and he may very well have gone on to become an orthopedic doctor. But on October 29, 1987, the dreams were shattered, and the long-term goal became just a secret journal entry when Bruzas was pronounced dead in the jail ward of County USC-Medical Center.

The cause of death was listed as pneumococcal meningitis, a severe bacterial disorder of the brain and spine, but what really killed Justin Bruzas was cocaine. Prior to entering jail (for the second time) on September 21, 1987, Bruzas had been selling his own blood to finance his drug habit, according to his 'surrogate' mother and close friend Baerbel Struthers, 50 years old. His immune system had become so depleted that he easily contracted the bacterial disease which killed him.

• • • •

Born on July 1, 1963, in Encino, Justin Bruzas was the oldest of three children in the kind of family most people would classify as very typical "middle-class normal." His father was an electrician, while his mother was a non-commercial artist. Justin was a typical young boy who loved sports. He played baseball, and football, which he hoped to play professionally.

When Justin was nine years old, he watched his mother die of breast and lung cancer. She had suffered from the disease for some time before her death, refusing treatment for fear of losing a breast. Justin was alone in his house when Dorothy Bruzas slipped into a coma on the living room couch.

"I think he got the complex that he did something wrong," said his father, Jack Bruzas, as he explained that Justin had been left to tend to his mother while Jack ran an errand at the bank. Jack returned to find Dorothy in a coma and Justin panic-stricken. Justin thought he was responsible.

"He talked about that an awful lot," Struthers said. "I don't think he ever got over that. I think that was one of the biggest blows."

Jack remarried soon after, and Mary Bruzas became Justin's stepmother. Although she did the best she could to raise Justin and his younger brother John and their sister Lola, says Struthers, it was Justin who had the most difficulty accepting Mary as the new "mom."

"Justin went crazy," Struthers says. At around 16, Justin was allowed to move into his own apartment across the street from Valley, supported by his father and stepmother. They paid rent and brought Justin food once a week. Struthers says Justin shared numerous stories with her about his experiences out of the Bruzas' house. "There was everything from drugs to women," she said.

"It just didn't work," said Jack. "There were too many parties, and we had to go to court [to handle the numerous eviction notices]."

During this time, Justin was moving from apartment to apartment, not enrolled in school. The farthest he had gone in school was the ninth grade.

In the fall of 1980, Justin was charged with involuntary manslaughter for the death of his best friend. Both had been joy-riding in the hills of Los Angeles while intoxicated. With Justin at the wheel, the car overturned. His friend died instantly. Justin was dragged under the car for some distance, and was not expected to survive the accident.

He was severely burned and required skin grafts to repair the damage. He was treated at County-USC Medical Center. This was not to be Justin's last visit to the hospital.

When he recovered, Justin was sentenced to serve six months at Rancho San Antonio Juvenile Detention Center. Here he met Gregory Struthers, the son of Baerbel. Gregory and Justin became friends in the juvenile center, where Justin was described as a "model inmate."

"He got privileges," Baerbel says. "While everyone else was learning how to spell, the counselors were giving him algebra books. He was way above and beyond anyone else there."

Gregory was released from the institution before Justin, and when he came home Baerbel told him that Justin could stay with them when he was released. In August of 1981, Justin, then 18 and too old to stay in the institution, moved into the Struthers' home.

Within two days, he had secured a job as a janitor at Valley Presbyterian Hospital in Van Nuys. He soon left that job and was hired by Sherman Oaks Camera and Sound, where he worked for the next five years.

Justin enrolled at Valley College in the spring of 1982. One of his first classes was elementary algebra. He withdrew from the class because he "didn't like the teacher," says Baerbel. He continued with his studies during the summer and once again enrolled in the fall 1982 semester.

Justin continued with his studies at Valley. Having a natural talent for mathematics, Justin passed elementary algebra, intermediate algebra, college algebra, trigonometry, plane geometry and calculus with analytical geometry, usually with A's. He had a particular fondness for Fred Lane, professor of mathematics, Baerbel said.

In the fall of 1984, Justin met Trena, a female classmate in his Introduction to General Chemistry class. There was an immediate attraction between the two. "She was there [chemistry class] because she wanted to meet smart guys," said Baerbel.

Justin and Trena disappeared for two days. When he finally did return, Baerbel was shocked at his appearance.

"He looked so different. His face just looked different," she says. "He was just so evasive about his whereabouts. Drugs never entered my mind."

6-24-87

*Once upon an ego trip
Many things I never saw
Arrogance walks at my side
No chance to see my flaws
If I stop to catch my breath
Maybe then I shall see
Fear has been my best friend
And change must come suddenly*

Although he was still enrolled in school, Justin's behavior eventually became more and more erratic. "He had outbursts of violence like I had never seen before. Drugs affected the human portion of him. Everything that used to be positive became negative. Most importantly, he became arrogant," says Baerbel. "He would stand on the front porch and say 'I could do anything,'" Baerbel recalled. "He once said he would 'step over his own dead mother' to get the drugs."

Justin's father, Jack, confirms her description of Justin. "If he had gone straight he could have been a millionaire. In fact, sometimes, he overused his charm. But when he used drugs his personality completely changed. He would be downright insulting."

Justin's use of cocaine can be followed through his grade reports from Valley. During the fall of 1984, he dropped all four of the classes he was enrolled in at Valley, including the introductory chemistry class he was already re-taking after dropping it in the spring. He again failed to complete the chemistry class in the spring '85 semester.

He needed the class to transfer to CSUN as an engineering major, which he wanted to pursue at the time. When he finally did complete the course in the fall of 1985, he received a "B".

In that same semester he received a "D" in a broadcasting class and withdrew from deductive logic. In the spring '86 semester he earned an "A" in art history, but withdrew from introductory physics.

Justin's drug habit eventually got so bad he was rushed to St. Joseph's Medical Center one evening in the fall of 1986. "I thought he was going to die," said Baerbel. Justin spent 20 days in drug rehabilitation before being released.

Soon after, Justin quit working at the camera store because he had begun stealing equipment. Besides the camera equipment he had stolen, Justin had taken borrowed money from friends and taken petty items from various stores, which he outlined in a detailed "repay" list. He needed the money and merchandise in order to support his ever-increasing drug habit.

Once again, Justin found himself at St. Joseph's Medical Center, just a few months after being released the first time. "He was so pitiful," said Baerbel. "The

*Do I really like myself
Or am I only in a dream
Should I seek another's help
Relieve me of my misery
Learning I am only a child
Now I walk with humility
Given freely of what I've learned
Its become so simple for me*

girl and the drugs were just too much for him. I took him back into my house even after he was in the hospital for the second time."

Justin's drug habit lead him to a desperate search for money. On a June evening, 1987, he was arrested for stealing the evening deposit bags from a Hughes market. While being chased from the store, Justin fell to the sidewalk and injured his hand. He was released from jail three days later and returned to Baerbel's



Justin Bruzas

home.

Justin eventually got another job, working at the Ralph's warehouse in Glendale. There, on September 21, 1987, he was arrested for breaking and entering into two homes, one of which was Baerbel's. "His fingerprints were on everything," she said.

By that point, Baerbel could no longer handle his behavior and she pressed charges against him for the burglary. However, her concern for his well-being took precedent and she hired an attorney, Ezekial Perlo, to represent him.

Justin's trial date was set for October 30, 1987, and a plea bargain was planned that would get Justin into

6-30-87

*Sitting in a crowded jail
Not knowing my crime
Where have I failed
Is there still time
I took their money
It didn't start there
Just a shot and a line
I had no more cares*

another drug rehabilitation program rather than prison. Justin never made it to court.

On October 29, 1987, Justin was rushed to the intensive care unit of USC Medical Center, the same place he was taken to after the 1980 car wreck. He was diagnosed as having pneumococcal meningitis. "I went to see him as soon as I could. I took one look at him and wanted to leave. I was just numb. I said 'it wasn't Justin.'"

Justin died October 29, 1987. He is buried next to his mother, in Lancaster.

A few days before his death he called his father. "He called collect from jail," says Jack. "It was the first time in years that we talked. It was like a father to son talk, real warm. We left on good terms."

This past Memorial weekend Jack, Mary, Lola and John went to the gravesite.

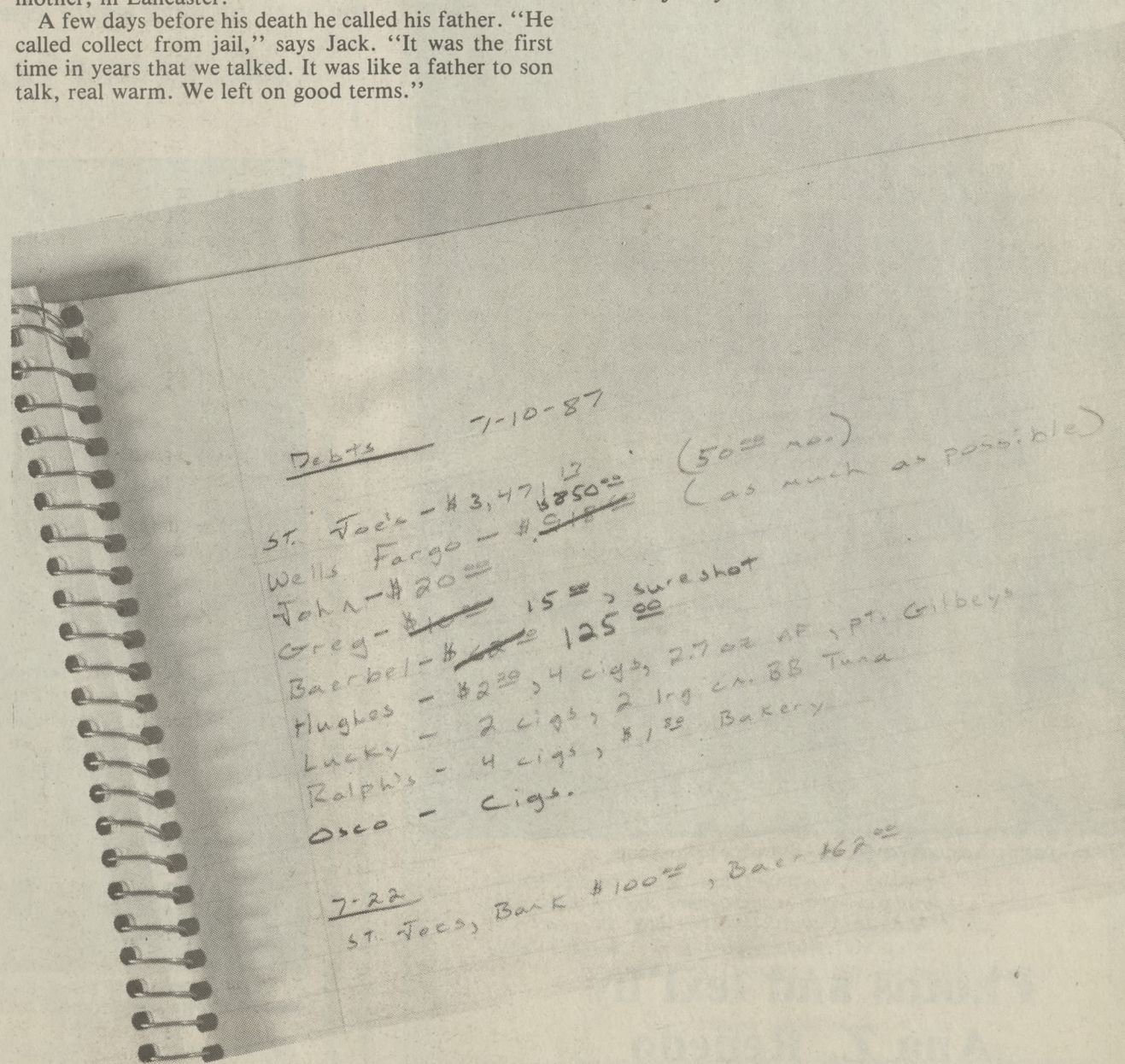
Says Jack, "There was a lot of turmoil in the family. I remember when the phone rang in the middle of the night and I would think 'What now?' But now I think he knew he was dying. I never knew about the poems he wrote until after his death. He really had the gift, he had the talent of his mother."

"When we were out there [the cemetery] the other day it seemed so final to see his name etched in stone. It's hard, it's really, really hard."

-Summer, 1987

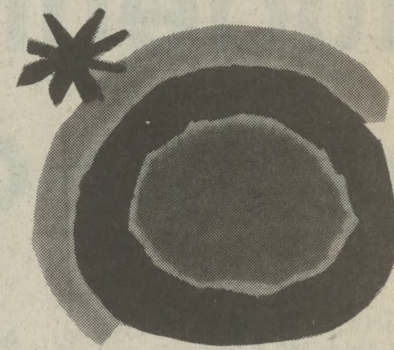
• • • •

The photographs and journal writings of Justin Bruzas were provided by Baerbel Struthers and the Bruzas family.



The sun of Europe:

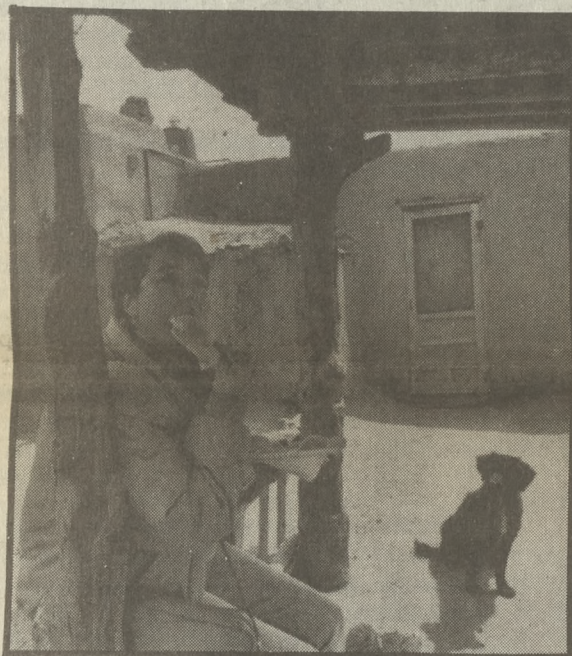
ESPAÑA



Ana Moradillo is one of the thousands of Spanish girls who know how to dance flamenco and play the guitar.

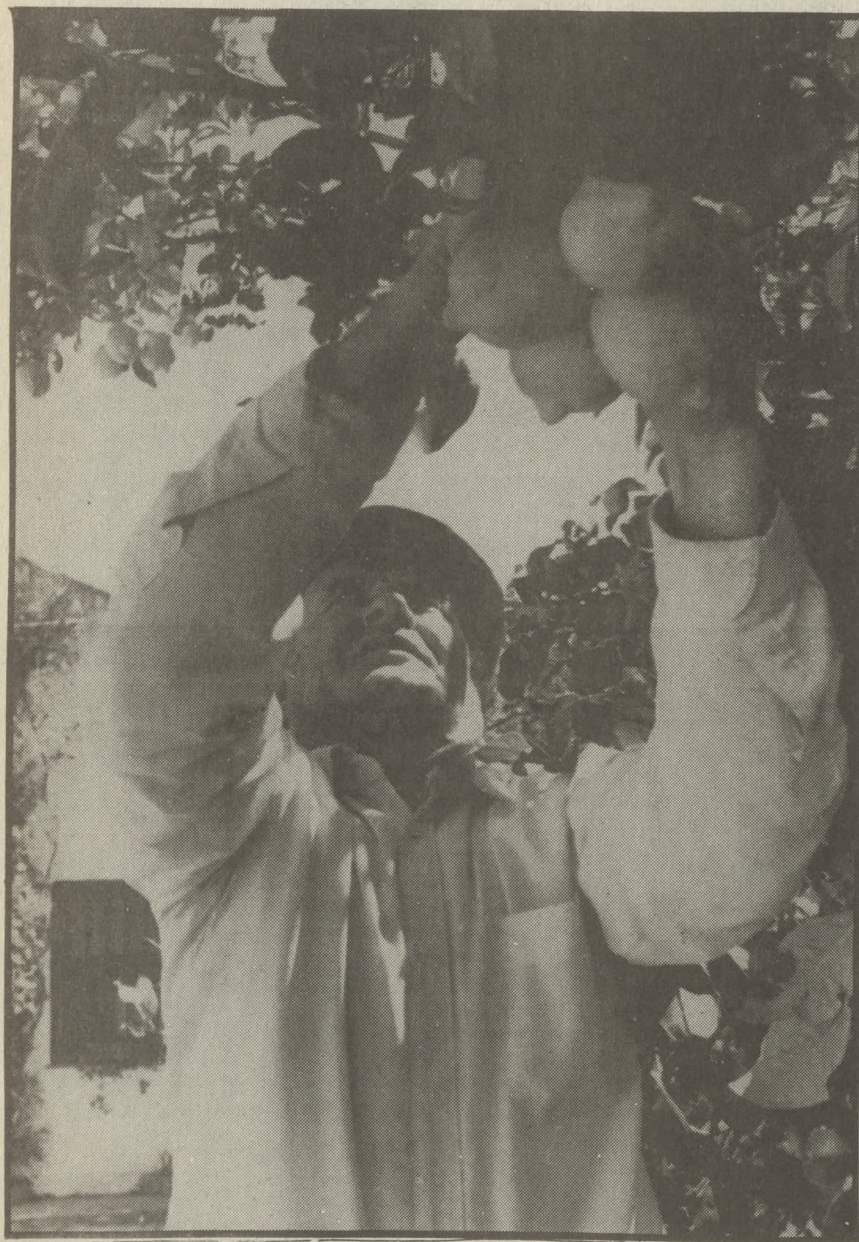


In "La Maestranza" (the bullfighting plaza of Sevilla) Espartaco, one of the best "toreros," fights a bull during "La Feria de Sevilla" which occurs every year in April when the whole city smells of spring.



Margarita Caton snacks at one of the "white" villages.

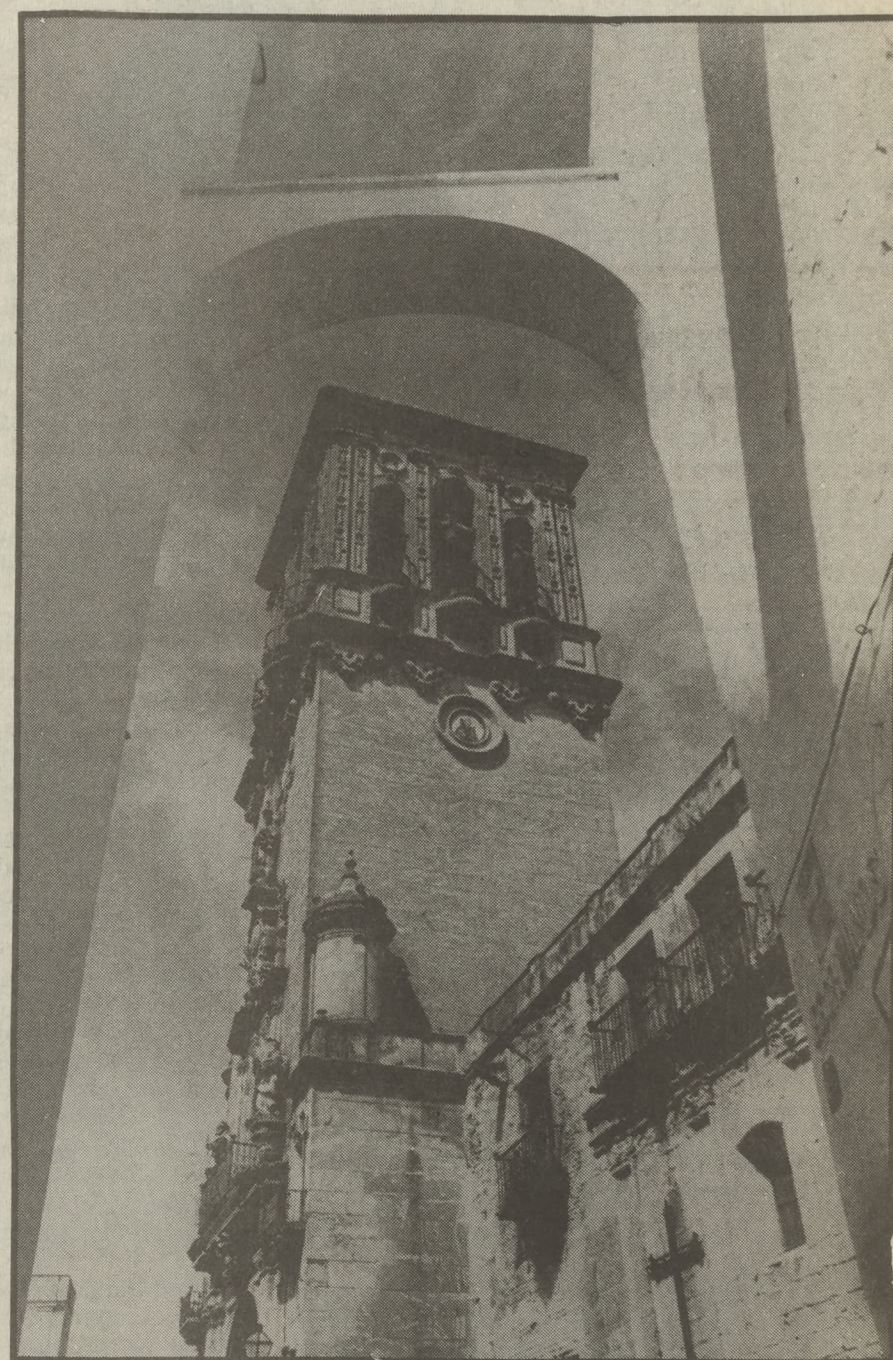
An ancient land with a great history and a vibrant present. A people steeped in tradition and very much a part of the present. It's a land of a thousand castles, alpine mountains, great plains abundant with olive groves. Spain is flamenco and bull fights, wonderful wine and the finest, noblest horses in the world. Many people have yet to discover Spain, because it is not a place that is on the way to somewhere else, "Spain is a destination."



Antonio Iglesias, a country man, picks lemons in the South.



A Spanish musician plays in the streets of Burgos, a medieval town world-famous for its Gothic cathedral.



A view of Santa Maria church in Arcos De La Frontera, Cadiz.

**Photos and text by
Ana Z. Renedo**

Spring sports wrap-up

Softball

By KAREN J. WATERS
Staff Writer

The Monarch softball team showed its improvement over the previous three seasons with a fourth place conference finish and All-State and All-Conference honors.

The '88 Monarchs ended the season with a 12-9 record in conference play and a 19-20 overall, bettering the '87 league play of 6-9 and 7-20 overall (including the 1986 records of 2-10 and 4-12 overall.)

"Our win-loss record has steadily improved for the past three years," said Assistant Coach Joanne Wadell.

Outfielder Tonya Staab and infielder Bianca Meunier made All-State and All-Conference first teams.

Catcher Fran Sharpe Infielder Paula Allen, Outfielders Tony Grandin and Shaggarro Lattin, and utility Stephanie Wukmir were voted to the All-Conference second team.

Denise Siefried, who started the season as catcher and ended the conference as Valley's only pitcher, received honorable mention. "I had to make a catcher into a pitcher and I knew she had to be able to pitch every game," said Head Coach Karen Honey.

"My number-one objective each season is to make my players into better ball players by the time they leave. This year our record was one of the best we've had in a long time and it was not easy," said Honey.

"We started out with 12 players but ended up with only nine players. That really hurt us as a team and did not allow us much flexibility," she added.

With only two players leaving, Coach Honey expects the '89 season to be more productive with even better results than this year.

Honey says that her foremost priority during the summer is to find a pitcher.

"Recruiting for junior college is tough," Honey says, "high school students say 'yeah, yeah, I'm coming next year,' then they don't show. I never know what I have to work with until we start playing again."

Next season Valley will be facing crosstown rival Pierce, as it returns to action in the Western States Conference after a three year absence.

Baseball

By ERIC BARAD
Staff Writer

The Valley Monarchs capped off a tremendous season by winning eight of their last nine games and were two games away from the state final until being turned back by Oxnard College.

The defeat left the Monarchs with a 19-17 record overall and 15-8 in the conference, good enough for a

second place finish in the Southern Division.

Until Valley finally shook things up, the Monarchs appeared to be headed for a dismal season and looking forward to summer vacation. "We had to win our final six games to make the playoffs," said Coach Chris Johnson. "Nobody gave up hope."

The Monarchs continued their hot streak in the division playoffs by winning two games, including a victory over conference winner College of the Desert 18-8 after trailing 8-6 in the ninth inning. The victory sent the flying high Monarchs into the state playoffs.

The Monarchs looked as if they would stop at nothing after a first round victory over San Diego Mesa. Valley was brought back to earth, losing to Oxnard 2-0 on a no-hitter.

What could possibly make an average team during the major course of the season turn into a dynamic winning machine?

Coach Johnson sums it up this way, "We have a very competitive team. They never got down on themselves when times were tough. I expect our late success this year will carry over to next season."

Coach Johnson also sees the team's success as a wide-open door to new recruits. "I see our success as making recruiting easier. After reading about us in the papers, they want to come to Valley and play baseball."

The keys to Valley's future success in the coming year can be attributed to the fact that many players will be returning next year. Players who contributed to Valley's success this season include are Center, Marc Sallin; lead the Monarchs with 392 batting average, and first in RBIs with 39. He hit seven homeruns 9.

Left-fielder, Marty Williams was second with a batting average of 327. He was also first in conference with a 420 average. He made it to base 8 times and was second in doubles.

Short stop, Ray Sabado: third in average 326

Right-fielder, Sean Thompson: was fourth with a 321 average. He was first with 4 triplea and in base hits and RBIs 31.

Although Thompson, Sallin and Williams, the offensive nucleus of the team, are leaving, there are still many returning players who with experience can make the team consistent and take them to the state finals.

Marc Sallin is expected to go to Westmont College. Sean Thompson will go to CSUN or CS Long Beach.

Coach Johnson reflects that good fielding by Shorstop Ray Sabado, who filled in nicely for injured Danny Minor, and consistent pitching from Jose Banuelos 9-2 were major factors in the team's winning streak.

Swimming

By CATHERINE GUNN
Staff Writer

Monarch men's and women's swim teams captured dual Southern California Conference Championships for the first time in Valley history as they ended the '88 season last April at East L.A.

Valley easily won over East L.A., Rio Hondo, San Bernardino and Chaffey.

The overall record, which reflects meets with schools outside the conference, was seven wins and one loss.

Three Monarchs placed in the statewide competition, held the first week of May in Ventura.

Shawna Sacks finished ninth in the 500-yard freestyle with a time of 5:24. Teammate Nancy Sas took 13th place in the 100-yard butterfly with a time of 1:05.2 and 14th place in the 50-yard butterfly with a time of 29.1.

Diver Carlos Diaz placed 12th in the three-meter board competition.

At the So. Cal. Conference a new school record was set by Sacks, Sas, Tracy Cordobes and Heather Wolfenden in the 400-yard freestyle relay. Their time, 3:56.67, replaced the old time of 4:04.52.

Valley College men finished the So. Cal Conference with 764 points, 305 points ahead of their nearest competitor, Rio Hondo.

Hario Kajona won in three events: the 200-yard breaststroke, the 400-yard individual medley and the 200-yard medley. Mike McAlister won the 1650-yard freestyle and the 500-yard freestyle, and placed second in the 400-yard individual medley.

Kajona and McAlister were voted conference swimmers of the year by the coaches in the So. Cal Conference.

"Our men's team was strong in the distance and sprint events," said Coach Bill Krauss. "We couldn't have won the conference without Hario and Dave." Krauss was voted coach of the year.

Kajona qualified for state competition, but refused to go because he did not want to miss his classes, according to Krauss.

Cordobes and Wolfenden will be returning next year on the women's team, and McAlister and sprinter Dave Hale will be returning on the men's team.

Divers Evette Frymer and Wendy Workman will be returning next fall. Workman took first place in the conference but was not eligible for state competition. Frymer came in second in conference competition.

The Monarchs will be competing in a new conference next year. The Western States Conference includes Santa Monica College and Ventura College.



The Lady Monarchs basketball team displays trophies for the 1987-88 season.

GIANNI PIROVANO / Valley Star

Track

By JULIE FARNHAM
Staff Writer

Ranking fifth in the state with an overall record of 8-0, the Monarch track teams concluded a winning year with double conference championships in May for the second straight year.

The Monarchs, now in the Southern California Athletic Conference, will return to the Western States Conference next year after a three year absence.

In what Head Coach James Harvey termed as a "pretty successful" season, the Monarchs "got tough" during the 35 events at the Southern California Conference championships.

On the women's team, Sabrina Cochrane competed in four events, winning the 100-meter hurdles and the 400-meter hurdles.

She took third place in the 100-meter race and joined her teammates for a Monarch victory in the mile relay.

Phyllis Manigault won the 400-meter and the 200-meter relays, leading the team on to success.

Pam Richardson also did well when she competed in seven events at the conference.

On the state level, the women's team ranks in the top six out of 10 events in sprinting and the top seven out of 10 in relays.

On the men's team, David Sals placed first in the 100-meter and the 200-meter.

Jeff Wells achieved a height of six feet, 10 inches in the high jump, for a fifth-place ranking in the state.

Coach Harvey attributes the success of the team to honest, hard work.

The men's team, which is sprint-oriented, "ran real tough."

"They reached a high level of competition and ran way above their heads," said Coach Harvey. "They went as far as they could."

Coach Harvey said, "The women's team did real well in the conference, but I know they could

have done better.

"In comparison to last year's team, both men's and women's teams were better athletes, better individuals, better people as a whole," said Harvey.

"My primary concerns during the conference were that I wanted to show the people that we were as good as in the past years, and that we could win the dual meets and also win both women's and men's meets in the conference," said Harvey.

"For the next season, I'll be getting the most of the men's team back, with the exception of three guys. But we will have to start from scratch with the women's team as we are losing most of them," added Harvey.

Basketball

By OPAL CULLINS
Sports Editor

As state semi-finalists, the '88 Lady Monarchs basketball team has accomplished what no other Valley team has done in quite a while.

It was the best of times and the worst of times for first-year Head Coach Doug Michelson as he guided seven determined players to best the season in 10 years, with three preseason tournament wins and a 28-4 overall record.

"My primary concern early on, in addition to winning and coaching a well-disciplined team, was to keep our program afloat because we were down to seven players on the roster," said Michelson.

"The girls rallied and pulled together, turning a near catastrophic situation to a positive, productive situation," he added.

The Monarchs, with a league record of 11-1, finished the season as co-champions of the Southern California Conference despite the lack of depth.

"We had to play a lot of zone defense and we were paranoid about getting key people in a lot of trouble said Michelson.

Valley beat last season's rival Merritt in the quarter-final round of the state tournament, avenging last

year's 58-41 loss and bettering the 25-5 record of the '87 Monarchs.

Sophomores Dematra Johnson and Bernadette Tillis were selected to the All-State team. Johnson was voted MVP of the SCC. Leading guard Tillis, who led the Monarchs through the state playoffs, had a season total of 365 assists.

Tillis averaged 12.1 assists per game with 23 high-games for the year.

Tillis and Johnson both received team honors, sharing the MVP selection.

Sophomore Traci Adkins was voted most improved player. Center Ruth Aguilar was elected most inspirational. Guard Roxanne Owens won the best defensive player award.

Shaggarro Lattin received the Rookie of the Year title and Kim Baldvitch garnered the coaches award.

Coach Michelson, who was Voted Coach of The SCC, attributes much of his teams success to sophomores Johnson, Tillis and Adkins, who felt that Michelson was the nucleus of the team. "They illustrated what it took to win at a junior college level."

"They got the freshmen involved and accepted the philosophy of sharing instead of a star system," said Michelson.

With leading sophomores Johnson, Tillis and Adkins departing for their respective colleges in the fall (Colorado, UC Riverside and Point Loma), Michelson expects returning players and freshmen recruits to continue a winning tradition in the '89 season.

Valley's Fall line-up will include 12 freshmen. Sandarine Rocher, a 3A-runner up from North Hollywood; Kamela Mallory, an All-Central City point guard who redshirted the '88 season; Sophia Aguilar, a All-Northern player from Lincoln High; and Leticia Carranza a 3A-City Champion from Reseda.

Angela Smith; Christine Rounfol; Kerrie Parson; Tisha Rush, All-State Junior Guard from Kennedy; Kana Snider; and Laura Kirkpatrick, an All-State from San Fernando, are all practicing with the '88 Monarchs.

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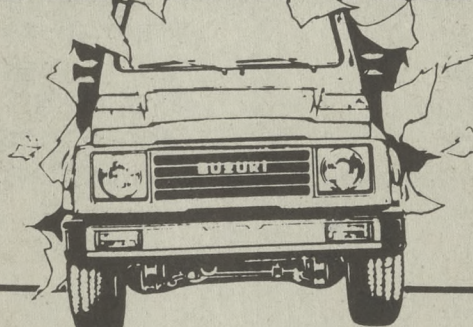
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Be greeted . . . and thanks . . .
They are worthy . . . give them a hand.

BE GREETED all of you . . . our guests.
Grandparents, Parents, Sweethearts.
Children, Grandchildren, and mothers to be . . .
Especially my fourth grader; today, laughing at me.

Thanks for your appearance.
Give yourself a warm hand, please.

YOU ASK, why has he wrote it; not speaking at this feast?
These words of gratitude are for "Our Intellectual Nest."
For 'restitution of my body and mind, and as an immigrant.'
You must think this writer must be out of his mind!

He is 73! Or, Alzheimers in its start!
Please . . . next, is the story's start.

RESISTING A three bypass in 1983. Then, woe was to mel
It precluded me to earn my daily bread . . .
To avert the deterioration of my body and brain
I enrolled at Valley College, to make use of my time.
Thanks for accepting me then.
My grandson started teasing me.

AS A first grader at the start of his education,
He couldn't grasp this created situation.
During months, arguing emphatically,
"You are too old Gran'pas . . . don't go to school!"

Attending my first graduation in 1987
My two AA's changed his reputation.

HE, FOR sure, was right then as he is today
Both of us are attending, for four years, school.
He is excellent in English, plus a high IQ.
I . . . am still "fluently stammering in English"

As you would hear it . . .
If I would read it now.

I ACQUIRED this tassel for my fourth AA . . . today.
Being able to work twenty hours during three days.
Even being 73, CSUN secured a philosophy class for me.
Valley College . . . you fulfilled your duty to mel

THANKS: "YOU CREATED A NEW AIM IN LIFE FOR ME."

Abraham Lenkawicki

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Monarch sets perfect example

By ERIC BARAD
Staff Writer

If practice makes perfect, then Sean Thompson, the Monarchs' 21-year-old rightfielder, is a prime example to follow.

Valley's softspoken team leader works hard to achieve excellence, as he attends every practice, working on baserunning, hitting and fielding.

This work ethic has established him as a consistent hitter, a good fielder and smart baserunner.

His steady work habits have earned him a league leading 385 batting average in conference play and an overall season average of .312.

His impressive statistics include a team leading four triples and a second place in RBI's with 30 for the '88 season, despite hitting only one homerun.

"I never try for a homerun, I am a line drive hitter and if I try to hit homeruns I could get in a slump," says Thompson about his lack of power hitting.

Although Thompson appears to be an individual who has lived a healthy life, he battled spinal meningitis at the age of 16.

He lost 35 pounds, got terrible headaches and contracted pneumonia while combating the potentially fatal disease that inflames the membranes enveloping the brain and spinal cord.

Surprisingly, he only missed one and a half months of his junior year of high school.

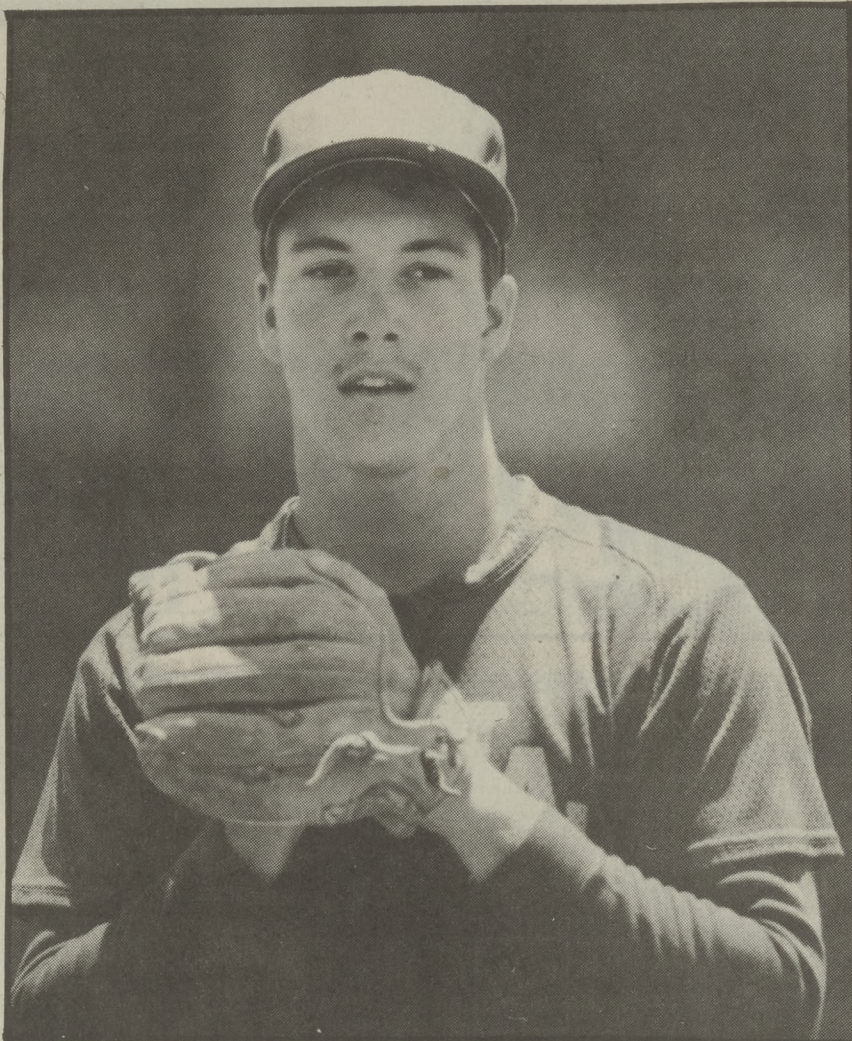
He came back the next year to be voted the best baseball player in his high school's (Westlake) division.

"I never thought I was going to die," says sophomore Thompson.

Hospitalized for two weeks, it took him one year to fully recover from the illness.

Although Thompson was named co-player of the year, he wasn't recruited by any colleges.

Thompson came to Valley after spending his freshman year at



Monarch rightfielder Sean Thompson watches teammates while warming up for before a conference game.

Moorepark College where he was used sparingly. He says about that period, "The coach had no confidence in me. I was a freshman and he didn't give me a chance to play."

At Valley, Thompson says he learned not to be tense, to take a relaxed approach to the game.

Coach Chris Johnson has nothing but praise for him. "He's a great person, which is more important to me than a great ball player. He's quiet, but leads by example. His demeanor is the same everyday and whatever he does, he will be successful."

Teammate and friend, leftfielder Marty Williams says, "He is a reliable friend, works hard and is serious about baseball. He's not the type of person at all who takes his anger out on the team."

Second baseman Harold Ciccone says, "Sean is fun to be around during practice. He gives 110 percent."

Thompson says that to be a complete player, he still has to improve. "I'm not as fast as I'd like to be. I'd

like to build up my strength and hopefully hit more homeruns."

Thompson's life is all baseball. When most people are celebrating the end of the school week, he is at home preparing for the next game. "My mind is always on the upcoming game, I take baseball very serious."

He credits his father for his interest in the sport of baseball. "My father played in the white Sox organization," he says.

Thompson doesn't regret that he played for Valley rather than a four-year school. "I enjoyed playing here. I would not trade anything in the world for the successful year we have had as Monarchs."

Thompson has not decided what school he will be attending in order to continue his education but declares, "I want to play professionally."

With his dedication and hard work ethics, it would not be surprising to find Thompson wearing the Dodger blue in the near future.

Player gets scholarship

By OPAL CULLINS
Sports Editor

It is not an everyday occurrence when an athlete gets a walk-on scholarship.

For 25-year-old former Valley athlete Debbie Cohen, the goal was a difficult one to achieve, requiring extraordinary zeal, dedication and discipline.

Cohen, nicknamed "Debo" by her former Valley teammates, received a scholarship to Cal State Dominguez Hills, the sixth-ranked division to team in the nation, after successfully training with both the volleyball and softball teams.

The transition from Valley to a four-year school wasn't just a matter of academics, she says. "I would finish working out with the volleyball team, and then I'd go down to the softball field and start all over again."

Her softball workouts included swimming, uphill sprints, weights and jumping rope.

Cohen, who played volleyball and softball at Valley during the '85-'87 seasons, says, "Training on a JC level is more like playing club ball." However, she maintains a high regard for Head Coach Karen Honey, whom she says taught her discipline.

"I don't ever recall getting any mention that I was a good ball player from Honey until my two years were close to an end."

In her two years at Valley, Cohen had only one defensive error. "I just dropped the ball and booted it. Everyone thought it was funny."

She says she enjoys playing for her coaches, but her biggest worry about going to a four-year school was that the coaches might not be of Honey's calibre.

"Debo is a fierce competitor," says Honey. "She had the most raw talent I had ever seen. She came out for the fun of it and excelled and decided to pursue the sport."

"There are many people who have the ability and for whatever reason don't make the jump to a four-year school. She sort of

hung out here until she had the discipline to take steps toward the future," said assistant coach Joanne Waddell.

A honor athlete with a 3.3 grade point average, she has little time to spend with her fiancé, Darren Allen, whom she has seen for a total of two weeks in a five-month span.

"He's very supportive. I told him from the beginning that sports are my biggest priority," Cohen says. "He's very understanding."

The five-foot, seven-inch centerfielder for Cal State Dominguez Hills says she psyches herself up at the plate when she's at bat by saying, "You're a piece of cake, I can hit any ball you throw."

Cohen has frequently sustained injuries and has on occasion continued to play while not fully recovered.

"Sometimes the pain would be so great that tears would be flowing down my cheeks for an entire game," she says.

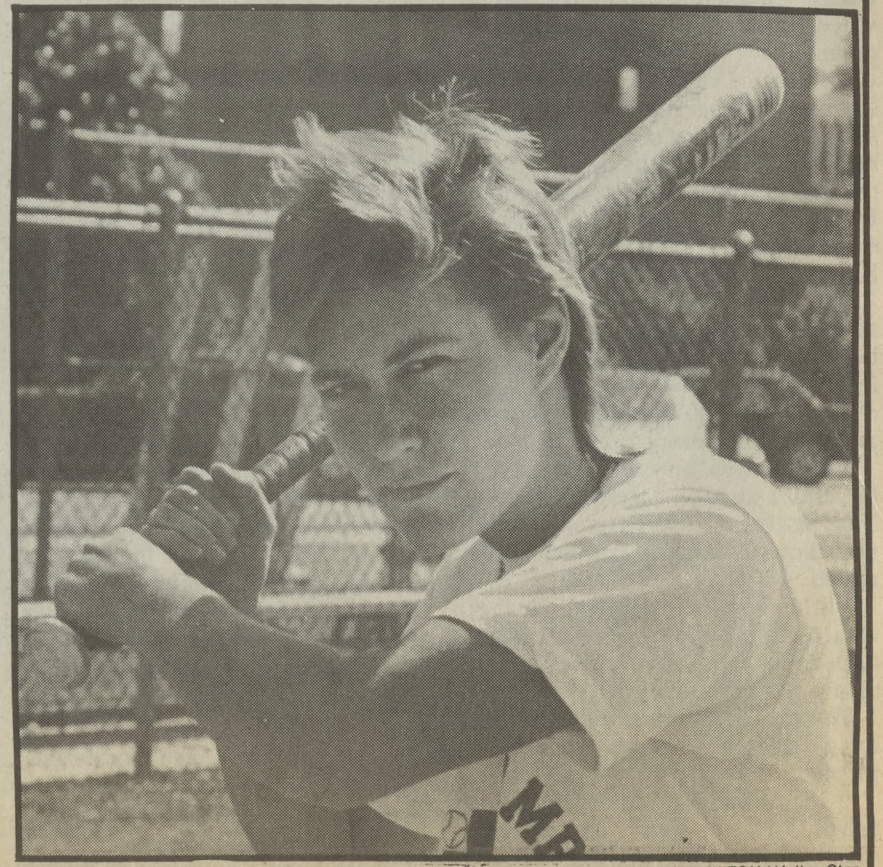
Although Cohen has been plagued with injuries for most of this year, she led her team in batting average for the first four weeks of the season and had the second most sacrifices.

When Cohen can find a spare moment she enjoys listening to K-Earth '60s music and going to the beach.

Born in Chicago, she grew up participating in a wide variety of sports. She attended Grant High, where she says her negative attitude changed when she was benched because of her deportment.

"I didn't know what the word meant; I had to look it up," says Cohen.

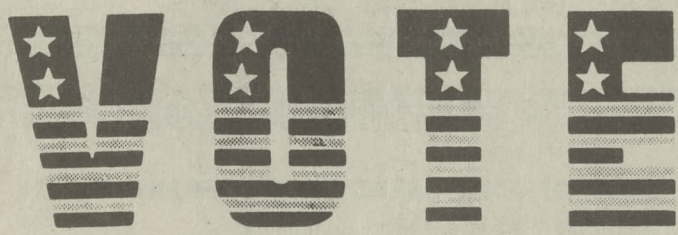
Cohen plans to be married in October and obtain her degree in biology and physical education in the near future.



Former Valley centerfielder Debbie Cohen waits to hit the ball.

CALIFORNIA PRIMARY ELECTION

Tuesday - June 7, 1988



YES - Proposition 71



NO - Proposition 72

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